Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
DEMON
EXPOSING
ARC
STORY BY
RYUKISHI07
ART BY
EN KITO

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Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
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1983

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CHAPTER 1: BEGINNING

NA-TSUMI!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN BED?

MMM...

NNN...

MOZO

MOZO (SQUIRM)

YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!

CHAPTER 1: BEGINNING

ひぇぇまま!?

HYAAA!?

MOM! WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP!?

KIMIYOSHI

公由

GOOD MORNING, NATSUMI.

I TRIED TO WAKE YOU UP DOZENS OF TIMES.

YOU STAYED UP WATCHING LATE-NIGHT MOVIES AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

KOTO (CLUNK)

ばたばたばたっ

BATA (STAMP) BATA BATA

どたどた

DOTA (STAMP) TA TA

WELL, THIS TOWN IS SO MUCH MORE URBAN THAN OKINOMIYA ...

HA HA HA

THEY SAID AT THE PARENTS' MEETING THAT LACK OF SLEEP CAN STUNT A CHILD'S GROWTH.

SAY SOMETHING TOO, DEAR. YOU'RE HER FATHER.

THERE'S PROBABLY A LOT MORE FUN AND EXCITEMENT FOR NATSUMI.

NNGH!

I CAN'T GET MY HAIR UP!

NATSUMI-CHAN!

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR GRAND-MOTHER TO DO YOUR HAIR FOR YOU?

SURE! ♡

IS IT LONGER THAN MOM'S ?

IT'S GROWN SO LONG ...

AND YOU'VE GOTTEN TO BE SO STYLISH LATELY.

YES, IT IS.

IS THERE A BOY YOU LIKE, PERHAPS?

EH!?

WHEN WE WERE IN OKINOMIYA, YOU WOULD GO TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR HAIR STILL A MESS FROM SLEEPING ON IT.

WELL, YOU MAKE SURE TO DO YOUR HAIR EVERY MORNING.

WH-WH-WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

THERE, ALL DONE.

YOU'RE QUITE CUTE AND PRETTY YOURSELF, NATSUMI-CHAN.

THIS PLACE ISN'T LIKE THAT HICK TOWN OKINOMIYA. ALL THE GIRLS HERE ARE SOOOO CUTE AND PRETTY.

THAT WAS MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, GRANDMA!

PATAN (SWAP)

UGH, STOP THAT!

...WAIT JUST A MOMENT.

NATSUMI-CHAN...

THANKS, GRANDMA! ♪

YOU HAVE TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS AND TELL OYASHIRO-SAMA YOU'RE OFF TO SCHOOL.

EHHH? BUT I'LL BE LATE!

PAN (GLAD)

PAN

THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF YOUR HOMETOWN HINAMIZAWA AND A MATCHMAKING GOD.

BUT NOBODY HERE HAS EVER HEARD OF OYASHIRO-SAMA.

I DON'T THINK THAT GOD IS VERY FAMOUS.

THE LEGEND SAYS THAT OYASHIRO-SAMA DIDN'T JUST ARRANGE MARRIAGES BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE, BUT ALSO BETWEEN PEOPLE AND DEMONS, RIGHT?

IF YOU MAKE SURE TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS EVERY DAY, YOU'LL HAVE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S BLESSINGS.

WHAT A WEIRD STORY...

"A GOOD FAMILY AND A GOOD MARRIAGE"... RIGHT?

ぽん PON (CLAP)

IF I PAY MY RESPECTS FOR TEN WHOLE DAYS, WILL YOU BUY ME A VCR?

THAT ATTI-TUDE WON'T DO...

IF YOU PAY YOUR RESPECTS WITH THOSE WICKED FEELINGS, YOU'LL BE CURSED.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS VERY SCARY.

NA-TSUMI!!

ERRR..

EH? UMM...

BESIDES, GRANDMA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO WORSHIPS BOTH MORNING AND NIGHT EVERY DAY.

COME NOW. YOU TOO, NATSUMI-CHAN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE!

AH... COMING!

NA-TSUMI-CHAN ...

SOSOKUSA (HURRY)

SEE YOU LATER, GRANDMA! I'M OFF!

ONCE UPON A TIME, A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...

...DEMONS OVERFLOWED OUT OF HELL AND CAME TO A HUMAN VILLAGE, WHERE THEY LIVED AMONG THE PEOPLE THERE.

OYASHIRO-SAMA GAVE THE DEMONS HUMAN FORMS AND CREATED A PLACE WHERE BOTH DEMONS AND HUMANS COULD LIVE IN HARMONY.

NORMALLY, PEOPLE AND DEMONS COULD NEVER COEXIST.

EVENTUALLY, HUMAN AND DEMON BLOOD MIXED, AND THE VILLAGERS, WHO HAD OBTAINED SUPERNATURAL POWERS, CAME TO BE KNOWN AS IMMORTALS.

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO THE POWER OF OYASHIRO-SAMA.

...MY FAMILY IS PART DEMON TOO...?

THAT SINCE GRANDMA WAS BORN AND RAISED IN HINAMI-ZAWA ...

DOODLE: ONIGASHIMA? / DEMON?

FOR A LONG TIME, THESE VILLAGERS WERE REVERED BY THOSE FROM VILLAGES AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.

GRANDMA SAYS THAT THE DESCENDANTS OF HINAMIZAWA WHO HAVE THE BLOOD OF DEMONS HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THEIR DEBT TO OYASHIRO-SAMA.

NA-TSUMI!

COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE NEVER CELEBRATED SETSUBUN ...!

CLASS IS OVER. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CHI-SATO-CHAN.

DOES THAT MEAN ...

AH... OH YEAH. SORRY.

TA-MAKO!

TON (TAP)

TON (TAP)

IF WE DON'T HURRY, THERE WON'T BY ANY ROOM IN THE CHANGING ROOM FOR US. ♡

DID YOU FORGET WE HAVE P.E. NEXT?

YOU'RE THE ONE ON THE P.E. COMMITTEE, CHISATO.

SO WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?

AH HA HA! ♡

THEN WHY DID YOU?

I DIDN'T JOIN THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE I LIKE P.E.

BE-CAUSE ...

HEH.

ON THE FIELD!

WHERE WERE WE SUP-POSED TO MEET UP AGAIN?

EH!?

...I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO GET A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF CUTE GIRLS LIKE NATSUMI WEARING BLOOMERS! ♡

EH?

CHISATO-CHAAAN!

CHISA!

DOKI (BADUM)

HEH! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT AN END TO OUR LOVE WITH A LITTLE TAP LIKE THAT!?

GO (WHACK)

STOP BEING STUPID, AND LET'S GET TO THE CHANGING ROOM!

AKIRA!

WHAT'S UP? WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO P.E. HERE.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP!

AGAIN? HOW MANY TIMES IS THAT THIS WEEK!?

WELL, YOU KNOW.

IT SURE IS CONVENIENT HAVING YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND IN THE CLASS NEXT DOOR.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP MY TEXT-BOOK?

AH!

COME AND RETURN THEM YOURSELF SOME-TIMES!

I'LL BORROW FROM YOU AGAIN SOON!

HERE'S YOUR BOOK!

.....

A MATCH-MAKING GOD, HUH...?

WHAT?

FURU (SHAKE)

FURU

SORRY TO KEEP YOU! LET'S GO!

I JUST REMEMBERED. IN TODAY'S CLASS WE'RE DOING AN ENDURANCE RUN ON THE FIELD.

Y... YOU'RE KIDDING!

NO WHINING, NO WHINING.

SO HE GOT INTO THIS SCHOOL ON AN ART SCHOLAR-SHIP.

HE LIVES NEXT DOOR AND ACROSS THE STREET FROM US. WE'VE BEEN STUCK WITH HIM A LONG TIME.

AKIRA'S CLASS JUST FINISHED P.E.

UH...

UM, HEY!

OH... OHHH...

TOU-DOU... AKIRA-KUN...

AKIRA-CHAN'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT DRAWING.

OH, COME ON!

PICK UP THE PACE!

LET'S RUN, NATSUMI!

HA! (GASP!)

...HAS BEEN FRIENDS WITH BOTH OF YOU SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, RIGHT?

WAAAAAH!

...EH?

I HATE ENDURANCE RUNS!

SO THAT'S THE DEAL. WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

(HA (SALUTE)

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE IT BACK TO THE P.E. STORE-ROOM. ♡

SEE, WE HAVE TO BUY OUR LUNCHES.

IF WE GET DRESSED AND PUT ALL THIS AWAY, EVERYTHING WILL BE SOLD OUT WHEN WE GET THERE.

GOSU (KONK)

I'M SORRY, NATSUMI! I APPRECIATE YOUR LOVE FOR ME.

I HAVE TO PUT ALL THIS AWAY BY MYSELF!?

HEY!

WELL, WE LEAVE IT IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS!

GU (STRAIN)

H...

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT WOULD BE REALLY NICE IF I HAD A LITTLE DEMON POWER ...

YOTA (STAGGER)

YOTA

HEAVYYYY...

GUGU

GUARA (RATTLE)

OOF...

OH ...!?

GURA (SWAY)

TOSA (CATCH)

AHH ...!

...CAN YOU STAND UP?

OOF...

DON (THUD)

UH... Y...

YEAH ...

HAND ME THAT TOO.

UH... UM...

THANK YOU...

UM...

...EH ...?

OH... NO, I MEAN...

...YOU LIKE MOVIES.

I HEARD...

THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS I WANT TO ASK YOU TOO.

LIKE WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK...

PURU PURU PURU PURU (SHAKE)

...KIMI-YOSHI ...

...IS THERE...A GUY YOU LIKE?

SHIRT: KIMIYOSHI

...BUT THOSE AREN'T THE THINGS I MOST WANT TO KNOW.

I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU COULD EVER LIKE ME, KIMIYOSHI.

I LIKE YOU, KIMIYOSHI.

YOU DON'T...

...HAVE TO ANSWER RIGHT NOW.

HE...

KAAAA (BLUUUSH)

I LIKE YOU, KIMIYOSHI!

BOOOZEN (DAZE)

HE LIKES ...

HE L...!

...EH ...?

EH?

UMMM, WHAT?

I...

...HAVEN'T FOUND A FAVORITE MOVIE YET.

...TOUDOU-KUN!

BUT I LIKE HAPPY ENDINGS.

NO MATTER HOW HEART-BREAKING THE STORY IS...

...IF THEY ALL SMILE AT EACH OTHER AT THE END AND SAY, "I'M GLAD"...

...THAT'S THE KIND OF MOVIE I LIKE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

HE LIKES ME TOO! HE LIKES ME TOO!

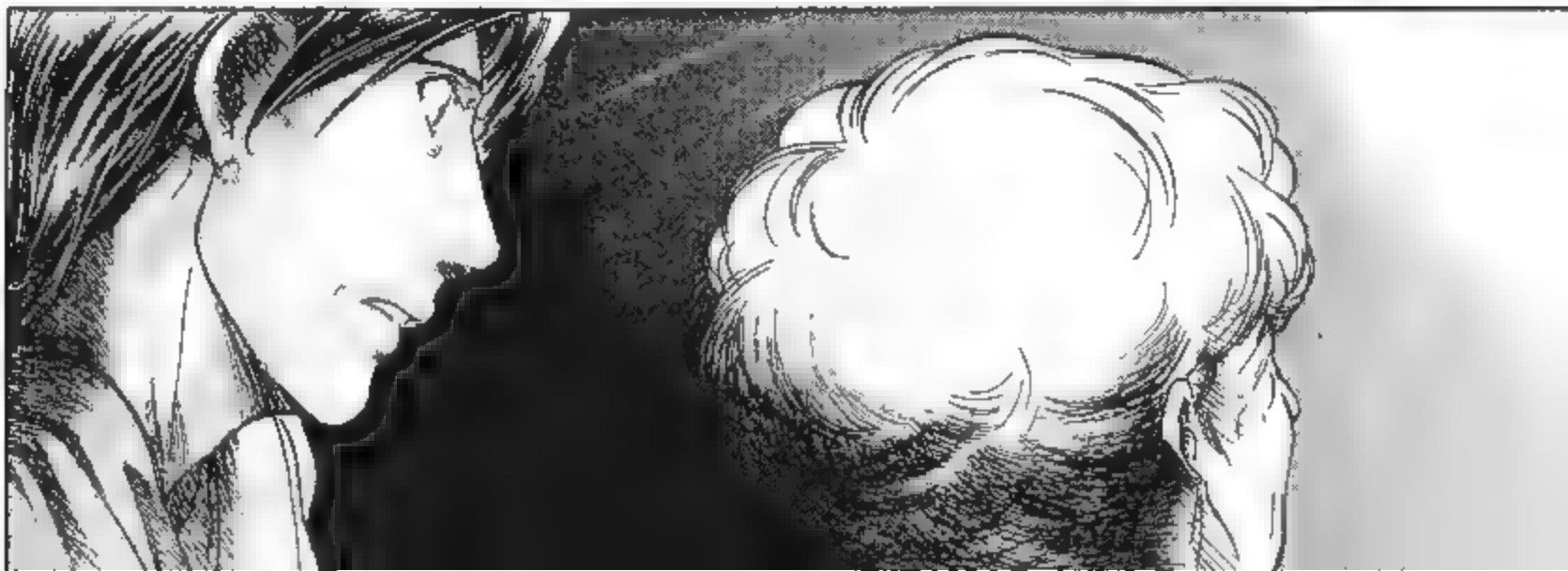
I FEEL LIKE I'M DREAMING!

I'M SO GLAD WE MOVED FROM OKINO-MIYA!

I'M REALLY GLAD WE CAME TO THIS TOWN!

MOM, GRANDMA!

I'M HOME! ♡



The gas...

...has not spread to urban areas.

I repeat.

The gas has not spread to urban areas.

...MOM? GRANDMA?

WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

Okinomiya...

...and Shishibone residents, we ask that you please remain calm.

DADDY!

MOMMY!

ARE YOU TELLING US TO SUCK GAS AND DIE!?

THERE'S BEEN A RAILWAY ACCIDENT! THE TRAIN'S NOT COMING!

I repeat.

空前のカルラ災害!!

This gas is extremely poisonous.

Late June 21, early June 22, volcanic gas engulfed Hinamizawa Village in the municipality of Shishibone.

There is no hope that any of the families in Hinamizawa, the village closest to the eruption site, have survived.

Addressing the question of why the damage spread so far to begin with...

The gas outbreak happened at two in the morning. Almost all the residents of Hinamizawa would have been asleep.

TV: GAS DISASTER / SHISHIBONE MUNICIPALITY

I believe that they passed away without ever knowing what happened.

WHAT ...?

NATSUMI, YOU REMEMBER, DON'T YOU?

THAT'S THE VILLAGE YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S FAMILY LIVED IN. HINAMIZAWA.

SHE HAD A LOT OF RELATIVES THERE...

I'LL TRY CALLING SOME RELATIVES. I HOPE I GET THROUGH ...

Now, live from the scene ...

SIGN: OKINOMIYA STATION

I'm live at Okino-miya Station.

AH!

OKINO-MIYA...

The station platform is jam-packed with citizens trying to evacuate.

But there are no signs of any trains coming ...

IT'S HARDLY CHANGED FROM HOW IT WAS LAST YEAR...

BUT GRANDMA, MAYBE... WE WERE LUCKY!

IF WE HADN'T MOVED, I'LL BET WE WOULD'VE GOTTEN CAUGHT UP IN ALL THIS TOO.

NA-TSUMI-CHAN ...

THIS IS THE CURSE...

THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THEY'VE BEEN STRUCK BY OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE ..HOW DREADFUL, HOW DREADFUL ...

...HUH ...?

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA ...?

THE ONE WE HAVE THE SHRINE TO?

As for Hina-mizawa, the village where the gas eruption occurred ...

Some say that perhaps this disaster had been foreseen in the folklore from long ago.

When the village's guardian deity smites them with a curse, a miasma will gush forth...

...and swallow the village, thus destroy-ing it. So the legend goes.

OYASHIRO-SAMA IS MUCH, MUCH GREATER AND MORE EXALTED THAN THAT.

OYASHIRO-SAMA IS POWERFUL AND TERRIFYING WHEN ANGRY.

It's terrible ...

Oohhh... Oyashiro-sama... Oyashiro-sama...

...GRAND-MA....

It's Oyashiro-sama's Curse. I know it is...

...JUST... WHAT IS... OYASHIRO-SAMA?

ISN'T OYASHIRO-SAMA A MATCH-MAKING GOD?

IS THAT ANY REASON TO DO ALL THAT? EVEN IF YOU'RE A GOD...?

NORMALLY OYASHIRO-SAMA IS VERY MERCIFUL ...

...BUT HE HAS VERY STRICT RULES.

...THIS ISN'T JUST A NATURAL DISASTER. IT IS THE WRATH OF OYASHIRO-SAMA...

...NO WAY.

It is likely that a similar outbreak occurred long ago...

AH... HEAR THAT?

For example, there are regions all over the country with stories about legendary tsunamis and other disasters...

...and that disaster would have remained in their folklore.

IT MAKES SENSE WHEN THEY PUT IT THAT WAY.

...GRANDMA...

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, NATSUMI-CHAN!

THIS IS OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE!

EH...? AH!?

...COME WITH ME!

LISTEN. DO IT LIKE THIS.

BOW TWICE, CLAP TWICE, BOW ONCE...

NOW... YOU TRY.

...I'LL... PASS...

NA-TSUMI-CHAN ...

I DON'T LIKE THIS VERY MUCH...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

.....

GUI GYANKO

...PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO!

I'M YOUR GRAND-MOTHER; I'M BEG-GING YOU!

NO...

WORSHIP WITH YOUR GRAND-MOTHER!

G... GRAND-MA!?

THAT HURTS ...!

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE MIGHT STRIKE YOU TOO, NATSUMI-CHAN!

COME NOW! YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL!

I'M SCARED ...

I'M SCARED ...!

NA-
TSUMI-
CHAN
...!!

NOOOO
!!

...
NGH
...

.....!

HA... HA (GASP)

.....

...OYA-SHIRO-SAMA, OYASHIRO-SAMA...

PLEASE DON'T CURSE HER...

NATSUMI-CHAN REALLY IS A KIND, OBEDIENT, GOOD GIRL...

PLEASE FORGIVE HER.

IF YOU MUST CURSE SOMEONE... I'M OLD, PLEASE, CURSE ME...

...UNNGH...

...HNNNNNNNGH...

...YOU SEE?

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE OUT HERE.

WE HAD NO CHOICE.

IT WAS PART OF DAD'S PROMOTION.

PEOPLE FROM HINAMIZAWA AREN'T SUPPOSED TO LEAVE HINAMIZAWA ...

WE'LL BE PUNISHED FOR TAKING UP RESIDENCE THIS FAR AWAY.

YOU MIGHT BE FROM HINAMIZAWA, MOTHER, BUT WE'RE NOT.

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK OUT TO THE COUNTRY AND ALL ITS INCONVENIENCES.

HARUKO... OYASHIRO-SAMA WILL CURSE YOU IF YOU TALK LIKE THAT...

BOTH YOU AND NATSUMI ARE HINAMIZAWA WOMEN WITH KIMIYOSHI BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS.

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN OKINOMIYA BY YOURSELF!

...DAD, DAD?

KOSO (WHISPER)

NN?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO A NURSING HOME!

WAS GRANDMA AGAINST US MOVING?

...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SHE WAS...

SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS A CURSE FOR LEAVING HINAMIZAWA.

THEY HAD A BIT OF AN ARGUMENT OVER IT.

I THOUGHT SHE HAD GIVEN IN.

YOU KNOW THAT DEITY YOUR GRANDMOTHER WORSHIPS?

OYASHIRO-SAMA... I THINK?

APPARENTLY BELIEVERS DON'T LIKE LIVING OUTSIDE OF HINAMIZAWA.

AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS VERY DEVOUT ...

BAN (BAM)

YES!

ARE YOU SAYING THEY'LL ALL BE CURSED?

BESIDES, THERE ARE LOTS OF FAMILIES WHO MOVED AWAY FROM OKINOMIYA. IT WASN'T JUST US.

...OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS REAL ...!!

THE CURSE IS REAL...

HARUKO ...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, NATSUMI.

YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S JUST IN SHOCK BECAUSE OF THE DISASTER IN HER HOME VILLAGE...

.....

SHE MIGHT BE HOME-SICK AND WANT TO GO BACK TO OKINOMIYA FOR A WHILE.

BUT, WELL, SHE'LL BE BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF SOON ENOUGH.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...?

It's because we left Hina-mizawa ...

Oyashiro-sama's Curse will smite us too...

YEAH ...

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

MY FAMILY WON'T BELIEVE ME.

THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME.

OYASHIRO-SAMA, OYASHIRO-SAMA.

PLEASE CALM YOUR RAGE.

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA.

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA.

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA.

THAT'S SO STUPID ...

PLEASE PROTECT MY FAMILY FROM YOUR CURSE...!

Please forgive us, Oyashiro-sama.

Please don't curse us, Oyashiro-sama.

Oyashiro-sama...

CHAPTER 1 END

CHAPTER 2:
PREMONITION

Three days after the poisonous volcanic gas engulfed the village of Hinamizawa in the Shishibone Municipality of XX Prefecture, the outpouring of gas continues.

The self-defense force still faces many difficulties in their efforts to rescue the disaster victims.

Furthermore, reports of strange smells are popping up all over the country. They are believed to be a reaction to this incident.

公由

SIGN: KIMIYOSHI

IT'S OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, I HAVE NO DOUBT...

NA-TSUMI.

IT'S NOT A NATURAL GAS DISASTER ...

IT'S THE CURSE...

LEAVING FOR SCHOOL ALREADY? BUT WE HAVEN'T HAD BREAK-FAST.

I'M NOT HUNGRY ...

I'M OFF!

APOLOGIZE TO MOM FOR ME, OKAY, DAD?

IT'S THE CURSE ...

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S ...

BATAN (SHUT)

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE ...

BECAUSE WE MOVED TO THIS TOWN ...

BECAUSE WE LEFT HINA-MIZAWA ...

I JUST KNOW THE CURSE WILL HIT US TOO ..

Y... YES...

DEAR! HURRY AND EAT YOUR BREAK-FAST!

5 TH SUSSING DISTRICT

GRANDMA SAYS IT'S THE CURSE OF HINAMIZAWA'S GUARDIAN DEITY OYASHIRO-SAMA BUT

THE NATURAL GAS DISASTER IN GRANDMA'S HOME VILLAGE OF HINAMIZAWA AND ALL THE TROUBLE AROUND IT...

...SWALLOWED UP OKINOMIYA, THE TOWN I LIVED IN UNTIL A YEAR AGO.

THOSE ARE SOME DARK CLOUDS

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT AN UM-BRELLA

GRANDMA CHANTS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE" ALMOST CONSTANTLY.

MOM'S BEEN IN A BAD MOOD THE WHOLE TIME...

...AND DAD...

...THE HEAVY ATMO-SPHERE AT HOME IS PLENTY CURSE ENOUGH.

"OYA-SHIRO-SAMA"...

I MEAN, WE'RE A FAMILY!

BUT...

YEAH... IT'S OKAY!

WHAT? HE'S ALREADY DONE SOMETHING TO YOU THAT YOU HAVE TO MAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER?

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT AKIRA-CHAN IS GOING TO DO WHEN HE'S GOT HIS MIND ON SOMETHING, AFTER ALL.

WE'LL MAKE UP SOON ENOUGH!

CHILD-HOOD FRIEND INTUITION. ♡

HOW DID YOU KNOW, TAMAKO-CHAN!?

OHHH, YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY DUMB?

AGO-NIZING ...?

OVER WHAT ?

AKIRA-CHAN CONFESSED HIS FEEL-INGS TO YOU, DIDN'T HE?

GOOD MORNING, NATSUMI.

CHI-SATO-CHAN ?

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU'RE STILL AGONIZING OVER IT.

SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE "I LIKE YOU" OR "GO OUT WITH ME," RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD OR JUST BAD AT EXPRESSING HIMSELF.

WHAT? WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?

"CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS"...!? TOUDOU-KUN JUST...

HE DOES TEND TO ONLY SAY WHAT HE NEEDS TO.

WE CAN VOUCH FOR HIS BACK-GROUND.

BUT HE'S BETTER THAN SOME RANDOM GUY OF QUESTIONABLE BACKGROUND, RIGHT?

WELL, IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT HE'S THINKING.

I DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS WERE BACK IN YOUR OLD TOWN...

...HIS BACK-GROUND? TAMAKO-CHAN...

AH! AKIRA-CHAN.

I'M NOT A COUNTRY GIRL...

...BUT CITY BOYS ARE DANGEROUS FOR COUN-TRY GIRLS, KIMIYOSHI-KUN.

AH...

HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM!

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YOUR ANSWER YET, HAVE YOU?

DON'T MAKE HIM SWEAT TOO MUCH!

RIGHT...

SO? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER SCHOOL?

PIKU (TWITCH)

YOU WANNA GO SOME-WHERE?

IT IS SAT-URDAY, AFTER ALL.

...WHAT... DID YOU SAY...?

ABOUT WHAT?

THAT IT'S SATURDAY?

OH NOOOO!

LISTEN, NATSUMI.

WE'RE GOING TO MEET WITH YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY ON SATURDAY.

I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE BACK UNTIL AFTER DARK.

SO MAKE SURE TO TAKE A HOUSE KEY WHEN YOU LEAVE.

GACHA (RATTLE)

GACHA

...I'M TOO LATE...

GON (KONK)

WHAT'LL I DO? THEY WON'T BE BACK UNTIL AFTER DARK...

I ALREADY SKIPPED BREAKFAST, AND NOW I WON'T GET LUNCH...

I KNOW! TIMES LIKE THESE ARE WHEN YOU NEED TO RELY ON YOUR FRIENDS!

IF I GO TO CHISATO-CHAN OR TAMAKO-CHAN'S HOUSE...

ROB (ROB)

DUZA (POUR)

...I'M HUNGRY ...

GUUUU (GRRRUMBLE)

IF ONLY THE RAIN WOULD JUST LET UP A LITTLE.

THEN I COULD AT LEAST FIND A PUBLIC PHONE NEARBY TO CALL CHISATO-CHAN.

PASHA

PASHA (SPLASH)

PASHA

AND GET SOME FOOD...

KI (SQUEAK)

PASHA

BIKU (WINCE)

SUU (BREATH)

SHHH

SHHH

DO YOU...

...LIVE HERE?

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I'M MAMORU AKASAKA FROM OKINOMIYA BOOKS.

...OKINO-MIYA?

I HEARD THAT THE GRAND-MOTHER LIVING HERE IS FROM HINAMI-ZAWA...

WE'RE TALKING TO SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THAT AREA SO THAT WE CAN WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THE REGIONAL HISTORY.

WE'RE A SMALL PUBLISHER FROM OKINOMIYA IN SHISHIBONE.

I...

NONE OF MY FAMILY...IS AT HOME RIGHT NOW.

CITY BOYS ARE DANGEROUS!

UH... UM.

...WHERE IS YOUR FAMILY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE LIKE THIS?

...FORGOT TO TAKE MY KEY WHEN I LEFT.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?

WE CAN GET YOU OUT OF THIS RAIN AND HAVE A LITTLE CHAT...

...OVER TEA OR SOME-THING.

THIS IS MY COLLEAGUE, KURALDO OOISHI.

YOU'LL CATCH COLD SITTING AROUND OUT HERE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT OKINOMIYA'S HISTORY ...

NO, NO, ANYTHING WILL DO. WE CAN JUST CHAT. SMALL TALK.

BESIDES, AT MY AGE, I DON'T HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK TO GIRLS WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY FOR IT.

I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D HELP A COUPLE OF OLD MEN FIND SOME DIVERSION.

B... BUT...!

OLD MEN...?

WE'LL TREAT YOU TO LUNCH WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

ゴロゴロ

GYURURU GOROGOROGORO

...
WHAT
...

BANNER: STRAWBERRY FAIR / HAMBURGERS

...AM I DOING HERE...?

NIKO
NIKO
NIKO
NIKO
(GRIND)

A PANCAKE COMBO AND ORANGE JUICE FOR HER.

YES, SIR.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, I REALLY SHOULDN'T LET STRANGERS BUY ME FOOD..

.....

AH...

UMMM
...

SEE? WE'RE GREAT FRIENDS ALREADY. ♡

NAT-CHAN, KURA-CHAN, AND MAMO-CHAN.

WE'VE ALL INTRODUCED OURSELVES.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE COMPLETE STRANGERS.

NN FU ♥

SIGH

NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI-SAN... IS IT?

TELEP-ATHY !?

OH? AM I?

...YOU'RE MAKING YOURSELF EVEN MORE SUSPI-CIOUS.

OO'SHI-SAN...

SORA-CHAN

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

SO... UM...

...THOSE EYES JUST NOW...

HMM... YES...

...I WONDER IF A YOUNG PERSON LIKE YOURSELF WOULD KNOW...

OYASHIRO-SAMA.

...KNOW

WHY DID HE LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT ...?

...ABOUT WHAT?

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK ABOUT THE LOCAL RELIGION OF HINAMIZAWA, THE WORSHIP OF "OYASHIRO-SAMA."

THEY BELIEVE THE VILLAGE WILL BE DESTROYED BY NATURAL GAS.

THEY CALL IT "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

ER... UM...

THAT IS THE DEITY GRANDMA WORSHIPS AT OUR HOUSE SHRINE...

YOU DO KNOW OF IT, DON'T YOU?

EH ...?

...BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY DETAILS...

THOSE WHO FOLLOW OYASHIRO-SAMA SPEAK OF AN APOCALYPSE.

STRANGE BEHAV-IOR...?

...A PATTERN OF STRANGE BEHAVIOR HAS SURFACED AMONG PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM THE VILLAGE... ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ELDERLY.

AFTER THE GAS DISASTER IN HINAMIZAWA A FEW DAYS AGO...

RELIGIOUS CEREMO-NIES ..?

THEY BELIEVE THAT THE DISASTER WAS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, AND THEY'VE BEEN PERFORMING SOME SORT OF RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

THEY SAY IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN HIT...OR IT'S TO AVOID BEING HIT...BY OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

MORE THAN A FEW OF THESE RITES HAVE DEVELOPED INTO SERIOUS CRIMES, LIKE MURDER.

ARSON, MURDER ...

...THE MOST COMMON IS SUICIDE...

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE TO HANG THEMSELVES OR JUMP IN FRONT OF TRAINS...

...BUT THERE ARE ALSO CASES WHERE THEY'VE DIED IN WAYS YOU'D NORMALLY NOT EXPECT, LIKE GOUGING OUT THEIR THROATS WITH A KNIFE OR WITH THEIR OWN FINGERNAILS.

SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN IN-STANCES WHERE ...

SO THIS NEWS HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

THE POLICE ARE HANDLING THESE CASES VERY CARE-FULLY.

AND THESE CRIMES WERE ALL COMMITTED BY PEOPLE FROM HINAMIZAWA, OKINOMIYA, AND THE SURROUNDING VICINITY.

...SOMEONE PUT FARMING CHEMICALS INTO A COOKING POT AT A RETIREMENT HOME, KILLING SEVERAL OF THE RESIDENTS...

SOMEONE SET HIS HOUSE ON FIRE AND DROWNED HIMSELF...

SOMEONE KILLED HIS CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBORS ON BOTH SIDES WITH A HUNTING RIFLE BEFORE KILLING HIMSELF...

GYU (CLENCH)

THEY DRAG THEIR OWN FAMILIES INTO IT.

NO... THAT'S NOT WHAT THEY WANT ...!

WRITING A REGIONAL HISTORY ...?

PUB-LISHERS ...?

KIMIYOSHI-SAN.

THEY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT—!

IT'S ALL—

IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT AT HOME?

SURU (SLIDE)

IT'S ALL RIGHT?

REALLY?

GATAN (CLATTER)

...THAT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT?

WE WANT YOU TO TELL US MORE...!

OO-ISHI-SAN ...

HOW IS THIS RELATED TO THE BRUTAL MURDER OF RIKA FURUDE, THE PRIESTESS SAID TO BE A MANIFESTATION OF GOD ON EARTH?

THIS IS THE BEST WE CAN COME UP WITH. ...SO PLEASE.

KUSHA (RUFFLE)

AH...

THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS ABOUT HINAMIZAWA THAT WE DON'T UNDER-STAND.

ESPECIALLY AFTER THIS GAS INCIDENT! WE'RE STUMPED!

YOU'LL TELL US, WON'T YOU?

KIMIYOSHI-SAN...?

TOUDOU-
KU—

DOSA (THUD)

AWW.

NOW THE TABLE IS SOAKED!

MISHI (CREAK)

PARDON ME, YOUNG MAN.

I KNOW IT'S JUST A WOODEN PANEL, BUT USING THE CORNER IS JUST DESPICABLE ...

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, KIMIYOSHI.

BUT ...!

...BUT WE WERE STILL TALKING WITH NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI-SAN...

EXCUSE US.

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER EATING ESTABLISHMENTS WHILE STILL IN SCHOOL UNIFORM.

WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE.

WHAT? IT'LL BE FINE.

...OO-ISHI-SAN ...

MY, MY, SHE GOT CLEAN AWAY FROM US.

...HE MAY LOOK VICIOUS, BUT HE'S QUITE THE UPSTANDING STUDENT, ISN'T HE...?

HAAAH ...

KYU SQUEAK

BASHA (SPLASH)

PETA (SPLAT)

JI (STARE)

CHIRA (GLANCE)

ちら

TEKU (TAP)

TEKU

TEKU

KAAAA (BLUUUUSH)

GYUU (SQUEEZE)

I'M SORRY, TOUDOU-KUN.

THANKS FOR HELPING ME BACK THERE...

...THOSE MEN...SAID THEY WERE FROM A PUBLISHING COMPANY CALLED OKINOMIYA BOOKS.

FROM THE TOWN I USED TO LIVE IN...

THEY TOLD ME THEY WANTED TO ASK ME SOMETHING, BUT IT GOT ALL WEIRD.

UMM ...

I...

I'M... OKAY NOW...

GOOD.

I'LL WALK YOU HOME.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

EH?

HELLO? MOM?

(BI!!! BEEEP)

GACHA (CLICK)

PURURURURU

PURURURURU

PURURURURU

PURURURURU

PURURURURU (RINGING)

...AH ...

WAIT A MINUTE, TOUDOU-KUN!

...GRANDMA ...

GIKU (GULP)

Hello, Kimiyoshi residence.

I went shopping. We must have missed each other.

STRANGE BEHAVIOR IN PEOPLE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA ...

I WENT HOME A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT NOBODY WAS THERE...

DRAGGING THEIR FAMILIES INTO IT...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, GRANDMA? WEREN'T YOU OUT WITH MOM AND DAD ...?

Oh, Natsumi-chan?

What's the matter? You're out late today.

Is what okay?

...IS IT... OKAY NOW?

.....

GRAND-MA...

It's all right now.

Don't worry, Natsumi-chan.

I'M SORRY, NATSUMI-CHAN.

YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THAT?

I WAS A BAD GRAND-MOTHER ...

What do you mean, "what"...? You've been worried about it all this time, haven't you?

Oyashiro-sama's Curse ...!

OH, THAT.

I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT THE RAIN HAD STOPPED.

You hurry on home.

OKAY!

THE WEATHER IS SO NICE.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YOUR ANSWER YET, HAVE YOU?

I'VE LIKED HIM TOO ALL THIS TIME...

...WHAT DOES SHE THINK I'D TELL HIM...?

ALL THIS TIME...

1年　藤堂 暁

...KIMI-YOSHI.

KIMI-YOSHI...

KIMI-YOSHI.

I HAVE TO TELL HIM.

OH.

Y... YES.

KIMI-YOSHI ?

YES !?

...DO YOU LIVE NEAR HERE?

I HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

THAT I'VE LIKED HIM ALL THIS TIME TOO.

...TELL HIM...

THE HOUSE WITH THE BLUE ROOF.

THAT'S WHERE I...

I HAVE TO...

IT'S ON THE STREET JUST AROUND THIS CORNER.

春子

夏美

春子

...WHAT...

...IS THIS..?

HE SAW IT.

HA (GASP)

TOUDOU-KUN SAW IT...

TOUDOU-KU—!

...THIS IS...!

NO... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK ...

HE SAW IT...!!

RIGHT.

KIM!-
YOSHI...

...I'LL SEE
YOU AT
SCHOOL.

BAN
(BAM)

ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF!

BIKUN (WINCE)

...A PUPPY ...?

I JUST KNOW HE THINKS I'M WEIRD NOW...!

WHY DID THIS...?

WHAT'LL I DO...?

WHY IS MY HOUSE...?

WHY!?

TOUDOU-KUN SAW IT...!

We have confirmed several casualties in the confusion and panic during the evacuation after the Hinamizawa natural gas disaster that occurred a few days ago.

GRAND-MA?

Based on some kind of religious fervor, senior citizens who stubbornly insist that the disaster was caused by a curse —

Behind these incidents are the fanatical religious views of Hinamizawa Village.

Much of that behavior has developed into crimes such as murder.

Furthermore, over the past few days, reports throughout the country have noted bizarre behavior in people from Hinamizawa and neighboring towns such as Okinomiya.

I want to tell them, "Don't drag us DECENT folks into it!"

Oh, you mean THAT incident? The one where the guy from Hinamizawa killed eight innocent people?

That isn't even funny!

This wouldn't have happened if they hadn't moved to our town!

That's the house of the Hinami-zawa punk who killed eight people.

If they're going to kill each other, they can just keep it between them and their relatives.

SIGN: KOMORI ELECTRONICS

This is all because they came here!

ARF ARF ARF ARF!

PIKA!

PICHAN (SPLISH)

GRAND-MA...?

ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF!

IEEK! (WINCE)

SFX: GABO (BLUB) GABO GABO GABO

SFX: GABO GABO GABO

SFX: GOBO (BLUE) GOBO GOBO GOBO

I'M SORRY I WASN'T HERE FOR LUNCH...

DON (THUMP)

どん

...WELCOME HOME, NATSUMI-CHAN.

LET'S EAT THEM TOGETHER WHEN I'M DONE, OKAY?

YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.

I BOUGHT SOME DELICIOUS MANJU.

OKAY, NATSUMI-CHAN?

PETAN (THUNK)

EH?

WHAT ...

...ARE YOU DOING ?

GRANDMA ...?

OH, THIS?

YES. THIS IS...

...A GOOD LUCK CHARM.

NA-TSUMI-CHAN...

...GET THE NEXT CAGE FOR ME, PLEASE.

I DO FEEL A LITTLE SORRY FOR THEM, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO PROTECT EVERYONE...

...THESE ANIMALS WILL BE CURSED IN OUR PLACE.

SO THAT WE WON'T BE STRUCK BY OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

SO THAT OUR WHOLE FAMILY CAN BE HAPPY...

GET IT, PLEASE.

NA-TSUMI-CHAN...

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

A GOOD LUCK CHARM.

DRAGGING THEIR FAMILIES INTO IT...

BELIEVING IN OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

STRANGE BEHAVIOR IN ELDERLY PEOPLE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA

HA (GASP)

IN THIS CON-SECRATED PLACE, I HUMBLY WORSHIP...

...AND OFFER THIS TO THEE, O GREAT OYASHIRO...

GATA (RATTLE)

GATA

GATA

GATA

DA

DA (DASH)

SFX: GABO (BLUB) GABO GABO GABO GABO GA—

HUMBLY, HUMBLY, I PLEAD.

MOM! MOM!

MOM! MOM! MOM!

Na-tsumi!? What's wrong!?

What hap-pened!?

MOM ...

MOM!

I EXPRESS MY SINCEREST GRATITUDE FOR THY VAST AND GENEROUS BLESSINGS...

SFX: GABO GABO GABO GABO GABO GA—

IT'S GRAND-MA!

GRAND-MA HAS THESE PUPPIES ...

ALL THESE PUPPIES ...

PETAN (THUD)

IN THE BATH-TUB...

THEY'RE ALL DEAD IN THE BATH-TUB...

Na-tsumi!

It's not just us!

All of our older relatives ...!

RUN!

THEY'VE GONE CRAZY!

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

NATSUMI-CHAN.

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.

DON'T WORRY.

NATSUMI-CHAN...

GOOD MORNING, KIMIYOSHI-SAN.

NEWSPAPERS: SERIES OF MASS MURDERS / A CURSE REVIVED IN MODERN TIMES!? / THE CURSE OF OYASHIRO / HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE GAS DISASTER / HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE'S CULT RELIGION / STRANGE BEHAVIOR IN HINAMIZAWA NATIVES AND A CURSE / FAMILY MASSACRED IN OKINOMIYA, SHISHIBONE

Y-YES.

GRAND-MA WAS DOING A LITTLE ...

SHE'S OLD, YOU SEE...

UM...

WE SAW THE MOST UNUSUAL DECORATIONS ON YOUR HOUSE LAST SATURDAY ...

LISTEN, NATSUMI.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT YOU'RE FROM OKINOMIYA.

NATSUMI!

I DON'T WANT THAT EITHER.

WE HAVEN'T PAID OFF OUR MORTGAGE, SO WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE.

AND YOUR FATHER HAS HIS WORK HERE TOO...

YEAH.

OKAY ...

... MOM.

I DON'T WANT TO MOVE AWAY.

GOOD MORN-ING.

WHAT'S UP? IT'S AWFULLY EARLY TO BE SO DEPRESSED!

HEY, DID YOU SEE THE NEWS ON SAT-URDAY AND SUNDAY?

THE WHATS-ITS-NAME CURSE!

...I HOPE THERE'S NO ONE FROM HINAMIZAWA IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ...

AND IN ONE PLACE, EIGHT PEOPLE WERE KILLED...

THEY WERE SAYING IT WAS SOME WEIRD RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

WHAT WAS IT CALLED? HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE? IN SHISHIBONE...

I MEAN, COME ON, THAT'S SO OLD SCHOOL!

...I'M SORRY ...

...BUT CAN I ASK YOU A WEIRD QUESTION?

NATSUMI.

ZUH (CLEAN?)

WHAT'S WRONG, NATSUMI?

YOU LOOK PALE. DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT OR SOMETHING?

I... I JUST DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP.

I WAS WATCHING MOVIES LAST NIGHT ...!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO ASK HER RIGHT NOW...

BUT YOU SAID IT BOTHERED YOU TOO, CHISATO!

DON'T BE STUPID, TAMAKO!

I TOLD YOU TO FORGET IT!

...EH?

BUT NATSUMI USED TO LIVE IN—!

...HA...

AH-HA-HA! TAMAKO-CHAN!

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

EH? REALLY?

SEE? I TOLD YOU YOU WERE JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS!

THE NAMES ARE SIMILAR, SO PEOPLE MIX THEM UP ALL THE TIME.

OH GOOD. I'M SORRY IF I OF-FENDED YOU.

I KNEW NATSUMI WASN'T WITH THOSE WEIRDOS!

RIGHT, NATSU-MI!?

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.

RIGHT.

I WANT TO STAY IN THIS TOWN.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.

...KIMI-YOSHI ...?

...ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...

UM... GRANDMA DID THAT ...

THEY SAY... IT'S 'COS SHE'S OLD...

PLEASE ...

I'M REALLY EMBAR-RASSED ...

...SO DON'T... TELL ANYONE ABOUT MY HOUSE, OKAY?

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CURSE!

AND!

THE PLACE I LIVED WAS FAR AWAY FROM HINAMIZAWA !!

YEAH.

I UNDER-
STAND.

CHAPTER 3: FAMILY

THEY FOUND SOMEONE ELSE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA?

OH MAN, THAT'S THE THIRD INCIDENT SO FAR.

THEY SAY THEY FOUND THEIR HOUSE WITH STRANGE DECORATIONS ON IT.

IT GIVES ME CHILLS TO THINK THAT ONE OF THOSE FREAKS LIVES IN OUR TOWN.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE PAPERS? INVESTIGATE?

SO ARE YOU A DETECTIVE OR SOMETHING?

THANKS!

HERE YOU ARE, SIR. ONE OF EACH MORNING PAPER WE CARRY.

SIGN: TAISHO CHOCOLATE

Breaking news on Hinamizawa.

HAIKU IS A HOBBY OF MINE.

I SUBMITTED POEMS TO EVERYWHERE I COULD THINK OF, AND I WANT TO KNOW IF I GOT PUBLISHED.

DOSA (THUD)

The incidents caused by Hinamizawa natives over the last few days...

All three suspects are natives of the Hinamizawa area in XX Prefecture.

We have determined that the family murders that took place in the three prefectures of T, S, and N are linked to the indigenous faith of Hinamizawa Village.

WEEKLY MAGAZINES AND MORNING PAPERS, THEY ALL WENT ON SALE TODAY.

SFX: MOGU (MUNCH) MOGU MOGU

...THERE ARE MORE REPORTS EVERY DAY...

KATAN (CLACK)

EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS AN ARTICLE ON A HINA-MIZAWA INCIDENT.

THERE ARE STUDENT MAGAZINES TOO. BUT THEY TREAT IT MORE LIKE THE OCCULT THAN A SERIOUS INCIDENT.

GOSSIP MAGAZINES, WOMEN'S MAGAZINES... WHAT'S THIS? *DAILY MORNING NEWS SPECIAL EDITION: ALL ABOUT THE GREAT HINA-MIZAWA DISASTER?*

THEY'RE OVER-REPORT-ING!

"EERIE CHARMS AGAINST EVIL, SUSPICIOUS CEREMONIES, MASS FAMILY SUICIDES .. FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL INFORMA-TION ABOUT THE HINAMIZAWA NATIVES WHO HAVE COME INTO THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT..."

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, HMM?

KIDS DO LIKE THESE KINDS OF THINGS.

PAPER: SERIES OF CURSES, HINAMIZAWA, OYASHIRO—

"ON THE DAY BEFORE THE DISASTER, A GIRL SAID TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF THE VILLAGE'S GUARDIAN DEITY, OYASHIRO-SAMA, WAS FOUND BRUTALLY MURDERED ...

"OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, A SERIES OF STRANGE HAPPENINGS OCCURRED IN THIS CURSED VILLAGE.

FOCUS

ELEVEN

ARTICLE SERIES OF CURSES/ OYASHIRO / MAN-EATING DEMONS

"BECAUSE OF THAT, PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE NATURAL GAS DISASTER IS THE CURSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH, AND FEARING THAT THE CURSE WILL STRIKE THEM TOO, THEY PUT UP CHARMS AGAINST EVIL..."

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE SHOUTING FROM THE ROOFTOPS THAT EVERYONE WHO IS DESCENDED FROM A RESIDENT OF HINAMIZAWA IS A MURDERER!

"LONG AGO, HINAMIZAWA WAS CALLED ONIGAFUCHI, THE PIT OF DEMONS, AND LEGEND HAD IT THAT THE VILLAGERS WERE DESCENDED FROM DEMONS.

THEY OFFER "SACRIFICES."

THE "CHARMS" ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF THE "STRANGE BEHAVIOR" LEADING TO SUICIDE AND MURDER.

THEY'VE REALLY LOOKED INTO THIS.

THEY BLACKED OUT PART OF THE NAMES, BUT ANYONE WITH GOOD SENSE W'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE FIGURING IT OUT

FURUDE, SONOZAKI... AND KIMIYOSHI.

...OTHER MAGAZINES HAVE ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE THREE FAMILIES OF HINAMIZAWA, SAYING THAT THE DEMON BLOOD IS THICKER IN THEIR VEINS.

FEAR ATTRACTS THE WORLD'S ATTEN-TION.

.....

TRAG-EDIES, YOU SEE ...

... FASCINATE PEOPLE.

BUT OOISHI-SAN, THIS IS ABNORMAL TO SAY THE LEAST...

THEY'RE NO DIFFER-ENT THAN WE ARE, AKASAKA-SAN.

BAN!
(BAM)

...
WHAT IS THIS...?

...
WHAT ...?

NEWSPAPERS: 'OYASHIRO-SAMA AGAIN: NEVER-ENDING TRAGEDY / SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS / TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND — / 'INCIDENT!' — 'HINAMIZAWA NATIVES, LEAVE OUR TOWN!' / SERIES OF INCIDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY / CITIZENS DEMANDING INFORMATION / CITIZEN'S SPEAK OUT.

BASA (RUSTLE)

BASA

BA (SNATCH)

MOM.

I... BOUGHT SOME NEWS-PAPERS.

BASA

AND THIS ONE AND THIS ONE!

BASA

AND THIS ONE!

BASA

THIS TOO!

THIS TOO...

HINA-MI-ZAWA ...

WHAT DID WE DO!?

HINAMI-ZAWA, HINAMI-ZAWA...!!

NEWSPAPERS: MYSTERIOUS DEATHS / MURDERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY: WHAT ARE THE HINAMIZAWA NATIVES DOING NOW!? // OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE STRIKES AGAIN / CITIZENS' UNREST IS ON THE RISE AS A SERIES OF STRANGE DEATHS BREAKS OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NA-TSUMI?

NO ONE KNOWS WE'RE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA.

AND NO ONE SAW YOUR MOTHER'S CHARMS.

HARUKO, IT'S OKAY.

IT DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY.

THAT'S RIGHT. AND I WOULD NEVER TELL ANYONE AT THE OFFICE.

AS LONG AS WE KEEP QUIET, WE'LL BE FINE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE ALL TALKED IT OVER. WE SAID WE'D NEVER TELL A SOUL.

I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE... THAT WE MOVED FROM OKINOMIYA.

...DON'T WORRY, MOM.

I'M KEEP-ING MY PROMISE TOO.

MOM ...

BESIDES, EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN IS SO FRIENDLY!

AS LONG AS WE KEEP IT A SECRET, NO ONE WILL BE MEAN TO US!

SEE!? IT'LL BE FINE!

...I'M OFF.

GO ON AHEAD ...

YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL ...

... NA-TSUMI ...

I'M NOT SCARED.

I'M NOT AFRAID TO LIE TO EVERY-ONE.

MARKINGS: OYASHIRO-SAMA

IT'S OKAY.

IT'S SUCH A BEAU-TIFUL DAY! ♡

MNM!

SO IT'S OKAY!

WHERE'S YOUR LUNCH!?

WHAT'S THAT, NATSUMI!? ALL YOU HAVE FOR LUNCH TODAY IS A SNACK BREAD!?

WHERE ARE YOUR MOM'S HOME-MADE TAMAGO-YAKI? AND THE MEAT-BALLS!?

UM... WELL...

...MY MOM... SLEPT LATE THIS MORNING...

PACKAGE: APPLE DANISH

WOW, THIS IS A FIRST. YOU COMING TO SCHOOL WITHOUT A LUNCH.

I GUESS EVEN YOUR MOM MAKES THOSE MIS-TAKES.

AH... AH-HA-HA-HA ...

I LOVE YOU, TAMA-KO-CHAN!

DO YOU WANT ME TO SHARE ?

DRINK: STRAWBERRY MILK

I'VE NEVER HAD SNACK BREAD BEFORE, SO I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH IT WOULD FILL ME UP.

NOPE. NOT ENOUGH

MAN, THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.

URK...

BUT WILL ONE PIECE OF BREAD BE ENOUGH?

SNACK: CHEESE CASTELLA, APPLE DANISH

IT'S TRUE. IF YOU DON'T EAT ENOUGH AT MEALS ...

SO IT'S OKAY...!

THAT'S RIGHT. EVERY-ONE'S SO NICE.

GUSAAA (SHINK)

...YOU WON'T GROW WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO.

HE IS TECH-NI-CALLY A MAN, AFTER ALL.

IF WHAT'S NOT!?

KI (GLARE) キッ

IT COULD BE A PROBLEM IF THEY'RE NOT BIG ENOUGH.

DRINK: MILK

REALLY? I DON'T THINK AKIRA-CHAN CARES ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING.

WHO ELSE WOULD I MEAN?

YOU MEAN T... TOUDOU-KUN?

HE SEES MORE THAN ENOUGH WOMEN IN HIS NUDE DESIGN CLASSES.

REALLY ?

HO (WHEW)

SARARI (CASUAL)

CHISATO-CHA—

NATSUMI WANTS TO ASK YOU SOME-THING!

COME HERE!

AKIRA !?

...IT'S OKAY ...

WELL, I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!
HUH?
SORRY. SOMETHING SUDDENLY CAME UP. WE HAVE TO GO.
IT'S OKAY ...
OH, THAT'S GOOD. ♡
I FINISHED IT IN THE CAFETERIA.
WHERE'S YOUR LUNCH, AKIRA-CHAN?
TOU-DOU-KUN WON'T SAY ANY-THING ...

CHISA! TAMA!!

MAKE IT COUNT!

YOU STAY HERE AND KEEP NATSUMI COMPANY, AKIRA-CHAN. ♡

CHISATO-CHAN, TAMAKO-CHAN!

GATAN (CLATTER)

THE PLACE I LIVED...

...WAS FAR AWAY FROM HINA-MIZAWA.

DOKA (THUNK)

YEAH.

WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CURSE.

...KIMI-YOSHI.

I UNDER-STAND.

AN OYASHIRO-SAMA WORSHIP-PER!?

EH!?

THERE WAS SOME-THING YOU WANTED TO ASK ME...?

UH... THAT WAS NOTHING. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT ...

...IT'S JUST A RUMOR, BUT...

...I HEAR THERE'S ONE IN THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT.

AN OYASHIRO-SAMA FOLLOWER FROM HINAMIZAWA!

NO WAY! REALLY!?

AND THE INCIDENT AT THE WEST SCHOOL WAS CAUSED BY SOMEONE FROM HINAMIZAWA TOO, RIGHT?

I HEARD THAT TOO!

MY FRIEND'S FRIEND SAID THEY SAW A HOUSE WITH THOSE CHARMS!

OH COME ON, HOLD ON A SECOND.

DON'T TELL ME THERE'S A STUDENT HERE WHO'S ONE OF THEM!

HUH...SO THAT WAS A HINAMIZAWA GUY TOO.

YOU MEAN THE ONE WHO WAS WAVING A KNIFE AROUND IN THE CLASSROOM!?

HUH? TOUDOU, AREN'T YOU IN CLASS D?

WE'RE HEARING RUMORS, BUT WE CAN'T PICK OUT WHERE IT WAS.

DID YOU SEE ANYTHING LIKE THIS NEAR YOUR HOUSE?

HEY NATSUMI!

AH!

HEY, HEY!

YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE, RIGHT?

SEE? THIS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NOTH-ING.

PAPER-MAN-EATING DEMONS / FOUND IN XX PREFECTURE / IT BEGINS WITH THE PHRASE "MY THROAT ITCHES."

HAVE YOU SEEN A HOUSE LIKE THIS SOMEWHERE, NATSUMI?

WE DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT.

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT'S IN THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT.

WITH SOME-THING THIS WEIRD, YOU'D KNOW IT THE SECOND YOU SAW IT.

IT'S STUPID.

FOG!

WHA—? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TOUDOU?

I DON'T CARE.

ONE OF THOSE FREAKS IS CLOSE BY!

WHO WOULDN'T HATE THAT? IT'S CREEPY!

HE DOESN'T CARE...?

THERE'S A MURDERER AROUND!

YOU COULD HELP US OUT A LITTLE!

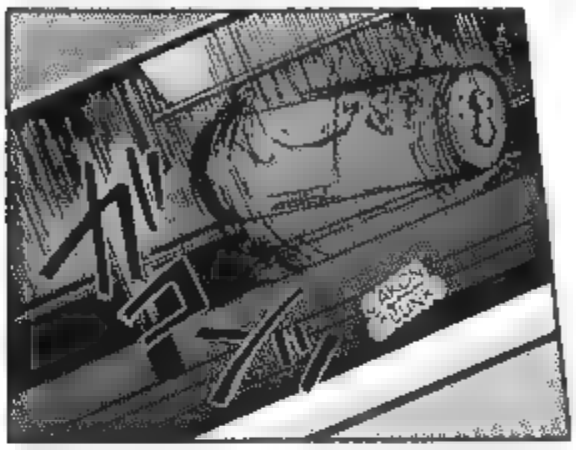
OH, I GET IT!

TOU-DOU, YOU'RE ...

"IT'S STUPID."

...ACTUALLY FROM HINAMIZAWA ...

GATAN (CLATTER)


GAKUN
GAKUN

I WANT MORE JUICE ...
IS IT OKAY IF I GO BUY SOME ...?

GON
GKŌN
IT'S OKAY.

SU
(SSK)
す。
OF COURSE HE THINKS IT'S STUPID.
OF COURSE HE'S NOT INTER-ESTED.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TOUDOU-KUN.
THAT'S RIGHT.

...THINK THAT...?

...DO YOU...

THAT I'M A CREEPY FREAK?

I UNDER-STAND.

KIMI-YOSHI.

I HATE IT ALL TOO! I DON'T WANT TO BE NEAR SOMEONE LIKE THAT EITHER!

I AM CREEPY, AREN'T I...!

A CURSE! OYA-SHIRO-SAMA!

...KIMI-YOSHI.

THAT I PUT UP EERE CHARMS ...

...AND KILL PEOPLE? ...THAT I'M A MUR-DERER?

YOU'RE LYING!

EH ...?

WHY?

WHY
IS THIS
HAPPENING?

IF ONLY THAT NATURAL GAS DISASTER HAD NEVER HAPPENED.

IF ONLY GRANDMA WEREN'T AROUND...

IF ONLY GRANDMA DIDN'T BELIEVE IN OYASHIRO-SAMA.

IF ONLY GRANDMA WASN'T FROM HINA-MIZAWA.

BA SMACK

I'M THE WORST ...!

WHAT AM I THINKING ...?

SHE'S MY FAMILY!

SHE'S MY FAMILY, AND I...

IT'S OKAY...

SHE'S MY FAMILY.

SO I'LL...BE FINE...

MOM, GRANDMA.

I'M HOME!

NOMI!

ZASHU (SLASH)

ZASHU

ZASHU

MO—

HA (GASP)

MOM! MOM!

MOM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

I HAD TO STOP YOUR GRAND-MA...

...I... HAD NO CHOICE...

THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY...

YOU WERE THINKING THE SAME THING, WEREN'T YOU, NATSUMI?

CHI

CHI

CHI

CHI

CHI

CHI

CHI

CHI

CHI (TICK)

CHI

CHI

...ARE YOU SAYING I WAS WRONG ...?

YOU'RE SAYING IT'S MY FAULT

YOU'RE SAYING "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"
YOU'RE SAYING "IT'S YOUR FAULT."
NO ONE'S SAYING THAT...
YOU ARE SAYING THAT

I ONLY DID WHAT YOU ALL WERE THINKING BUT COULDN'T DO YOURSELVES.
I DID IT FOR OUR LIVELIHOOD
BUT I DID IT FOR OUR FAMILY'S HAPPINESS
AND WHAT?

YOU'RE GOING TO PUT ALL THE BLAME ON ME?

YOU PUSH ALL THE DIRTY JOBS ONTO ME.

THIS IS BECAUSE YOU NEVER DO ANYTH.NG. YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

HARU-KO...

WE FINALLY GOT OUR OWN HOUSE. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS.

EVEN YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR CHANCE TO MOVE UP IN THE WORLD.

YOU SAID YOU'D MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE IN THIS TOWN, BUT I'M THE ONE DOING ALL THE WORK.

YOU'RE ...

... ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

GA (WHACK)

I DID IT BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T!

...
NATSUMI
...

BIKU (WINCE)

JOSAI (SLUMP)

DO YOU LIKE YOUR SCHOOL?

YOUR FRIENDS?

DON (THUMP)

THEY'RE ALL GOOD KIDS, RIGHT?

...YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, NATSUMI...?

YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS TOWN, DO YOU, NATSUMI?

I'M...
...ON YOUR SIDE, MOM...
MOM...
...IT'S OKAY.

I MEAN, WE'RE FAMILY...

GET ME THE TOOL-BOX.

DEAR.

GASHA

GASHA

GASHA CLANK

HARUKO, WHAT ARE YOU ...?

GARAN (CLATTER)

GASHA

...IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CARRY HER AS SHE IS NOW, RIGHT?

WE'RE GOING TO *DIVIDE HER UP* ...

...SO SHE'LL BE EASIER TO HIDE.

WE'RE FAMILY, AFTER ALL. WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER ...

WE HAVE TO GO SOME-WHERE FAR AWAY TO GET RID OF HER.

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, IT WILL BE DONE IN NO TIME.

FAMILY HAS TO HELP EACH OTHER.

すすり (SUSURI)

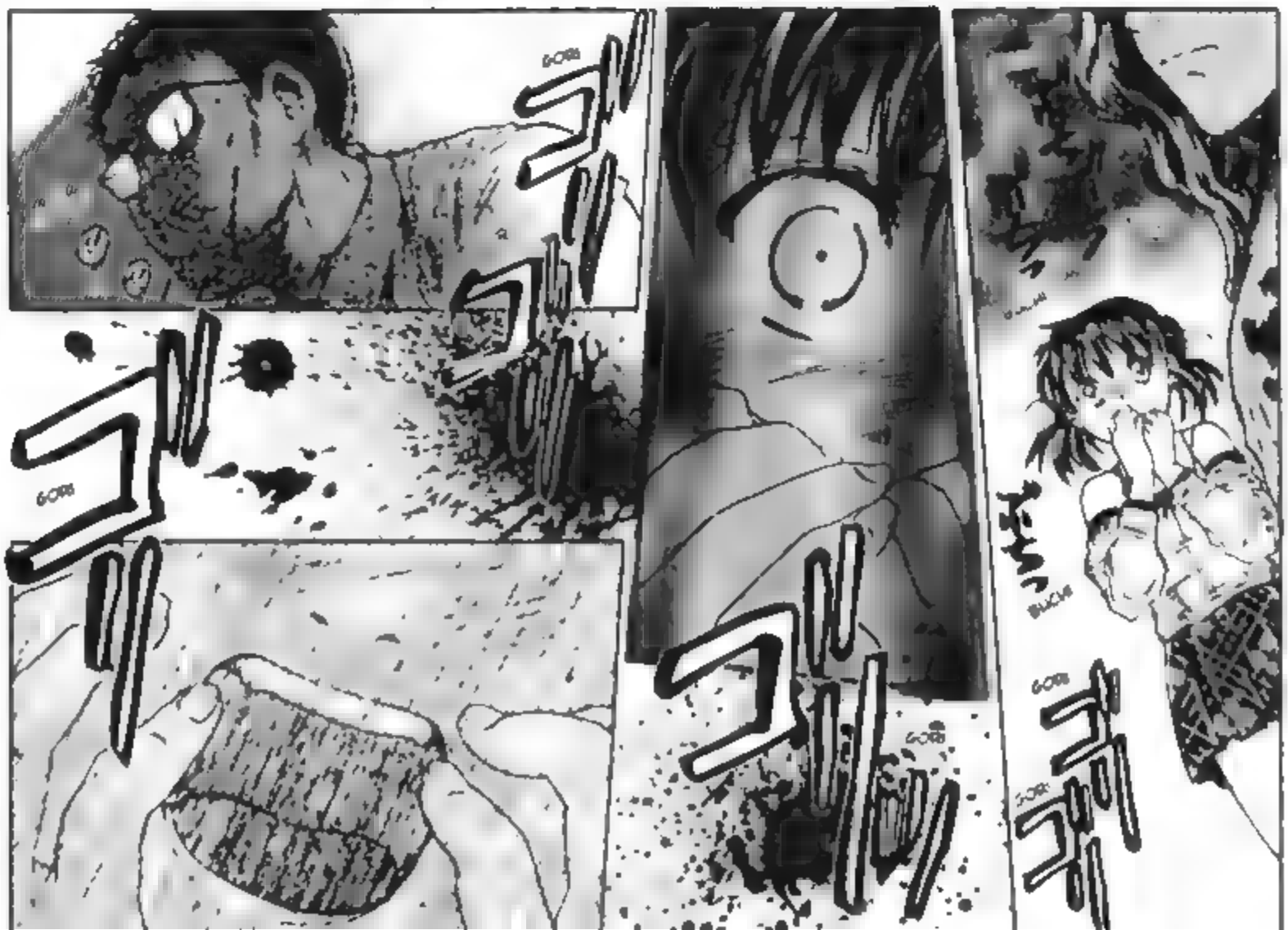
THAT'S GRANDMA.

...DAD...

DAD...!

ONE MORE

ドドド
ドドド


GORI
GORI
GORI
GORI
GORI
GORI
GORI
GORI

NA-TSU-MI!

AAA AHH!

NO! NOOOOOO!

KYAAA AAAAA AA!

AHHH ...!

GRAND-MA! GRAND-MA!

BE QUIET! THE NEIGH-BORS WILL HEAR YOU!!

NNGH...

NGH...!

NA-TSUMI !!

...GRANDMA...

THERE'S A BOY I LIKE!

GUESS WHAT, GRANDMA?

HIS NAME IS AKIRA TOUDOU-KUN.

HE'S A GOOD ARTIST.

AND SOME-TIMES...

...HE SMILES AT ME SO TENDERLY!

OH...

THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GET EVEN CUTER AND CUTER SO THAT HE'LL LIKE YOU TOO, NATSUMI-CHAN...

HE IS THE BOY YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH, AFTER ALL...

...SO HE MUST BE A WONDERFUL BOY...

NATSUMI.

YOU'RE GOING TO HELP TOO.

GH...!

BA (JUMP)

BLEEEAAGH!!

BLEEEAAGH!?

NGH...BLEEGH!

...NATSUMI.

GO ON...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T.

...YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER BOTH DID IT.

BLEEGH!

BLEGH...

...NO...

NOW HOLD ON TIGHT.

...NO...

HOLD IT PROP-ERLY.

GYU

GYU (SQUEEZE)

NO...!

NATSUMI.

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE TO LEAVE TOWN!?

LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER!

NO! GRANDMA !!

NO! I DON'T WANT TO!!

NA-TSU-MI!

AKIRA?

YOU NEED TO GET TO BED.

AKIRA? YOU'RE STILL UP?

HUFF ...!

HUFF ...!

BOTA

BOTA

BOTATA (DRIP)

HUFF ...!

HUFF ...!

GACHI GACHI

GACHI CHATTER

GOOD GIRL, NATSUMI.

YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD DAUGHTER ...

CHAPTER 3 ◎ END

AFTERWORD BONUS MANGA

I'M EN KITO. PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M SORRY FOR SOILING YOUR EYES.

*STANDING IN FOR EN KITO: BEAR CICADA. THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM LIVING IN WESTERN JAPAN.

SHUWA SHUWA SHUWA SHUWA SHUWA (HISSES)

"PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I AM EN KITO, AND I AM IN CHARGE OF THE ART FOR THE HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY SIDE STORY, THE 'DEMON EXPOSING ARC'!!" ...IS THE KIND OF INTRODUCTION THEY REQUESTED I MAKE, BUT IT'S RIDICULOUSLY EMBARRASSING, SO PLEASE SPARE ME.

SIGN: CAUTION: THERE ARE MISTAKES!

2. THE CREATION OF THE DEMON EXPOSING ARC

キケン!! 問張アリ!

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU CONFESS

WE KNOW YOU DID IT HA HA HA

THE CREATOR, RYUKISHI07, WRITES UP THE OUTLINE FOR EACH CHAPTER, AND HE, EDITOR H-SAN, AND EN KITO USE THAT AS A BASIS TO FLESH OUT THE STORY TOGETHER.

STANDING IN FOR CREATOR RYUKISHI07

BUT THEY REALLY DID LET ME TAKE MY TIME AND HAVE FUN WITH IT

1. BEGINNING

THEY'RE MAKING A MANGA VERSION OF HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY

IT ALL STARTED WITH A PHONE CALL FROM MY EDITOR, H-SAN.

STANDING IN FOR EDITOR H-SAN

I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO THESE KIND-HEARTED GENTLEMEN

DON'T TELL ME HE'S A STALKER IS

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ALWAYS AWFULLY CONVENIENT WHEN THIS AKIRA KID SHOWS UP?!

THIS IS WHAT THE ENERGY IS LIKE WHEN WE'RE DISCUSSING THE STORY.

BUT STALKING WASN'T A CRIME BACK THEN

THEY JUST CALLED THEM "DEVOTED ADMIRERS"!

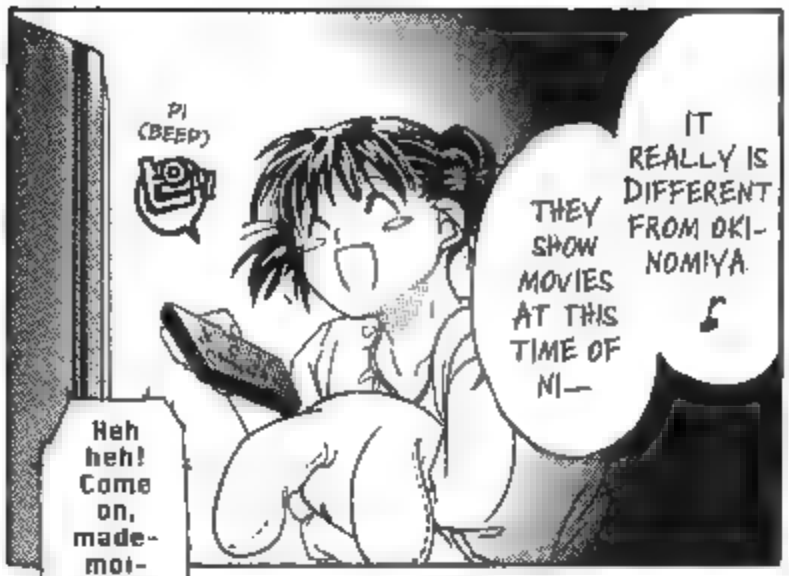
ANYWAY, NATSUMI! RUN!!!

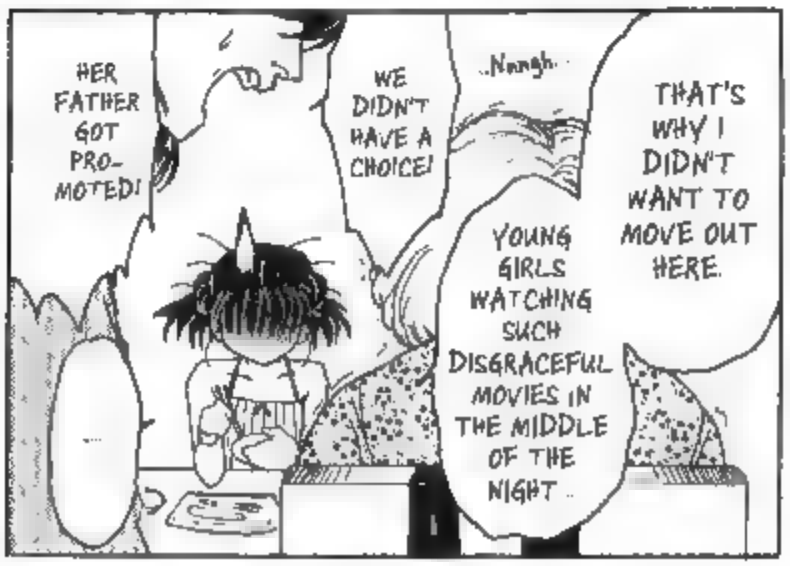
CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS WILL START ON THE NEXT PAGE

THE ONE THAT HAS A MAID CAFE IN 1983?

THAT HIGURASHI!? (FOCUSING ON THE WRONG THING)

I DIDN'T REALLY SAY THAT. I'M SAYING THAT BECAUSE IT'S AFTER THE FACT. I'M SORRY.




HER FATHER GOT PROMOTED!
WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE!
..Nnngh..
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE OUT HERE.
YOUNG GIRLS WATCHING SUCH DISGRACEFUL MOVIES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI

THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC." DESCENDANT OF A BRANCH OF THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY WHO MOVED TO THE CITY FROM OKINOMIYA. MY FIRST IMPRESSION WHEN I SAW THE OUTLINE WAS A NEAT AND TIDY YOUNG LADY, AND I DESIGNED HER WITH MODEST, ORDINARY PIGTAILS. BUT MY EDITOR SAID SHE LOOKED TOO PLAIN (LAUGH), SO ULTIMATELY SHE ENDED UP WITH BUNS OVER HER PIGTAILS. ALONG WITH HER HAIRSTYLE, HER PERSONALITY GOT YOUNGER TOO. BUT SHE GETS SCARED SO ENERGETICALLY THAT WE CAN PROBABLY SAY IT TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT.

AKI KIMIYOSHI

A KIND GRANDMOTHER. I THINK SHE'S PROBABLY A SIBLING OR A COUSIN OF THE HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE CHIEF, KIMIYOSHI. WHILE SHE'S GENTLE AND EASYGOING, SHE'S A WOMAN FROM ONE OF THE THREE FAMILIES— THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY. SHE'S RELATIVELY ACTIVE FOR HER AGE. WHEN SHE WANTS TO GET SOMETHING DONE, SHE DOES IT. IT WAS FUN DRAWING THE GARDENING AROUND THE HOUSE (LAUGH).

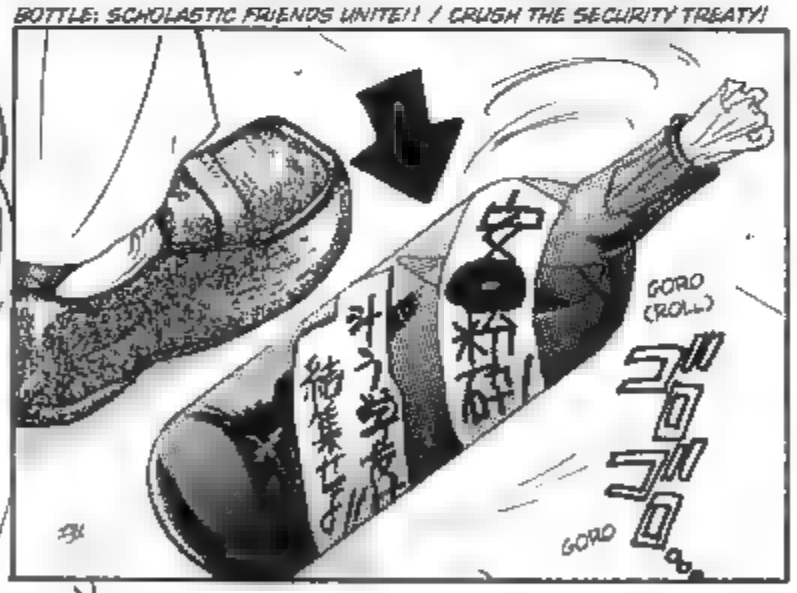
TOUJI KIMIYOSHI

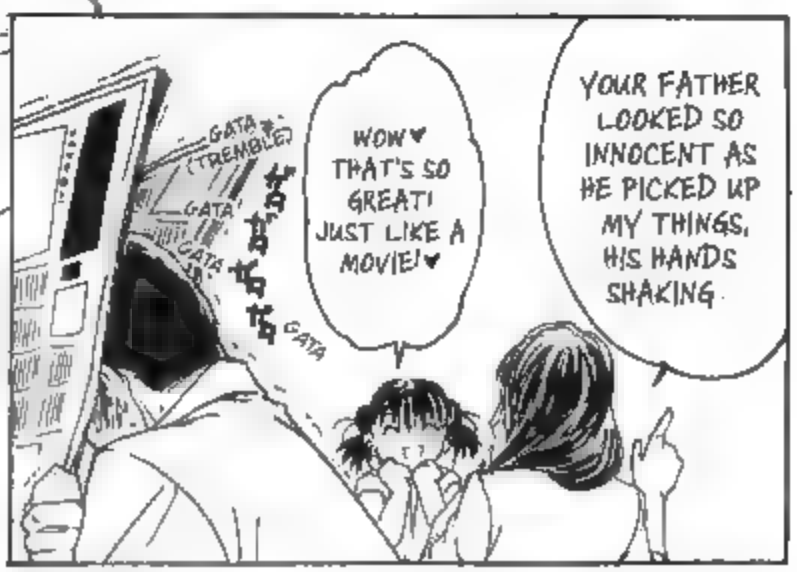
PAPA WHO TOOK HIS WIFE'S LAST NAME. APPARENTLY HIS WIFE IS ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY WITH HIM (REFER TO THE CHARACTER INFORMATION SHEETS). BUT HE BOUGHT A HOUSE AND GOT PROMOTED, SO IT SEEMS LIKE HE CAN DO HIS JOB PRETTY WELL. HARUKO KNOWS HOW TO PICK 'EM.

HARUKO KIMIYOSHI
BLESSED WITH INTELLIGENCE AND BEAUTY, SHE'S A TERRIFYING WIFE AND WISE MOTHER. NATSUMI-SAN REALLY LOOKS UP TO HER ♡. ...I WISH I COULD HAVE DRAWN HARUKO-SAN MORE LIKE SOMEBODY YOU'D WANT TO LOOK UP TO... SHE WAS ALWAYS SO ANGRY.

BOX: LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

BOTTLE: SCHOLASTIC FRIENDS UNITE!! / CRUSH THE SECURITY TREATY!




GATA (TREMBLE)
GATA
GATA
GATA
WOW♥ THAT'S SO GREAT! JUST LIKE A MOVIE!♥
YOUR FATHER LOOKED SO INNOCENT AS HE PICKED UP MY THINGS, HIS HANDS SHAKING

TAG: MEMORIES

NOW THAT YOU MENT.ON IT, TODAY
Kee hee hee
BUT HE NEVER DRAWS THE MODEL'S FACE, DOES HE?
MAYBE HE'S EM-BARRASSED ABOUT BEING SO CLOSE TO ADULT-HOOD

*HINT: IDOL COLLAGE

CHISATO SAEKI

CHILDHOOD FRIEND TRIO MEMBER NO. 1. HER FAMILY RUNS A MAJOR HOSPITAL, AND SHE'S ACTUALLY FROM A VERY WEALTHY FAMILY, OR SOMETHING. THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF DETAILS AND DELUSIONS ABOUT HER THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE STORY, LIKE HOW SHE USED TO BE IN LOVE WITH AKIRA. HER NAME COMES FROM A CERTAIN '90s IDOL.

TAMAKO MAKIMURA

CHILDHOOD FRIEND TRIO MEMBER NO. 2. SHE KEEPS CHISATO-CHAN IN CHECK AND CAN BE REALLY HARSH WITH THE COMEBACKS. THE OLDEST OF FOUR SIBLINGS. HER NAME WAS GIVEN TO HER BY MY EDITOR H-SAN. ...IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S ROLY-POLY?

AKIRA TOUDOU

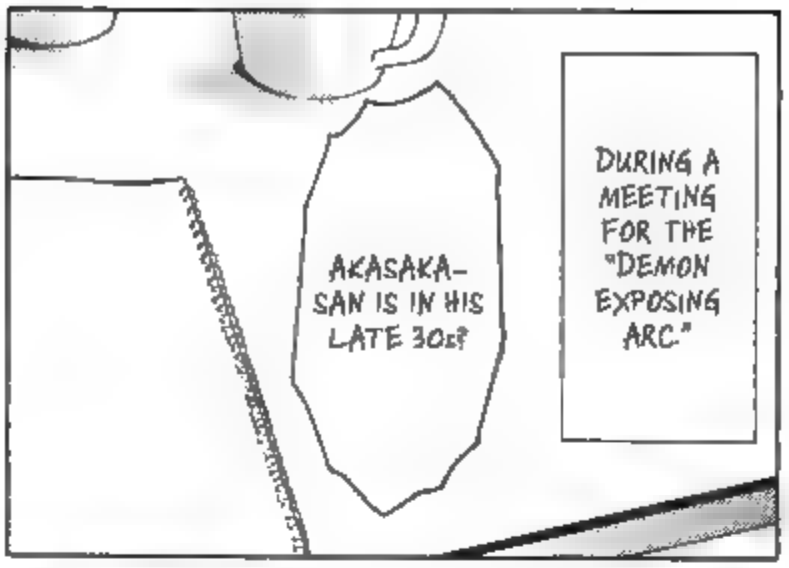
LOWEST RANKING OF THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND TRIO (LAUGH). "THE MAIN CHARACTER IS VERY HAPPY!" "THEN LET'S HAVE HER ALL LOVEY-DOVEY." "ARE YOU SURE!? I'LL REALLY DO IT!!" AND THAT'S HOW HE CAME TO BE IN THE STORY. AT FIRST HE WAS JUST THE LOVEY-DOVEY SPECIALIST. THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, HE'D BECOME A MAIN CHARACTER. KEIICHI-SAN, THE MAIN CHARACTER OF *HIGURASHI* PROPER, IS A WIZARD OF WORDS, SO WE TRIED MAKING THIS CHARACTER THE STRONG, SILENT TYPE. HIS NAME WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY MY EDITOR, H-SAN.

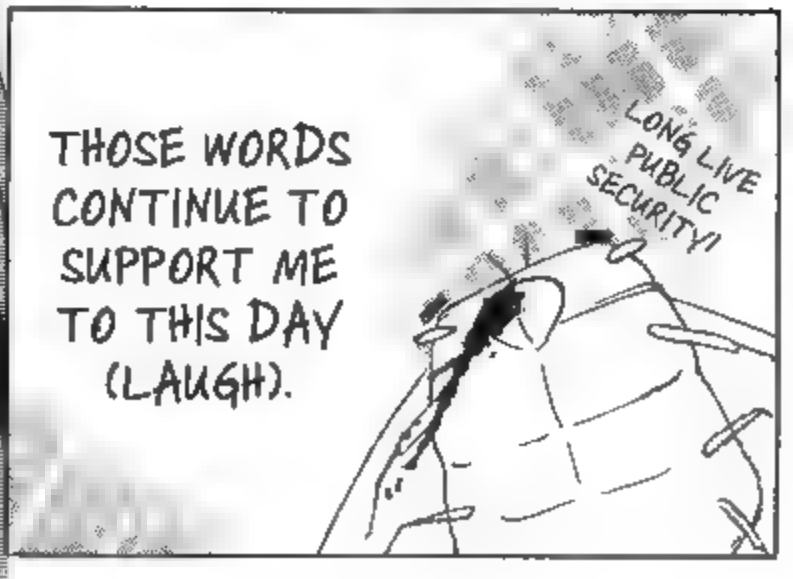
AKASAKA-SAN

A CHARACTER THAT YOU ALL KNOW FROM *HIGURASHI* PROPER. IT WAS... HIS FIRST VISUAL APPEARANCE. I'M SORRY, (I FEEL LIKE APOLOGIZING FOR SOME REASON). MY INSTRUCTIONS FROM MR. RYUKISHI07 WERE "STRONG AND DEPENDABLE." "HE'S A GOOD-LOOKING GUY, SO HE DOESN'T AGE (LAUGH).

OOISHI-SAN

ALSO A CHARACTER FROM *HIGURASHI* PROPER. MY INSTRUCTIONS FROM MR. RYUKISHI07 CONSISTED OF ONLY ONE WORD, "LECHEROUS...!" "LECHEROUS OLD MEN ARE A BIG FAVORITE OF MINE. THANK YOU SO MUCH, THANK YOU SO MUCH.





I HOPE WE CAN MEET AGAIN.

☆ SPECIAL THANKS ☆
MIAKI IZUMIHARA
CHIHAYA KIRYU
AND HEIZO

JUNE 1983

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

IF YOU DON'T GO TO BED EARLY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WAKE UP IN THE MORNING.

BUT I JUST HAD TO SEE THAT MOVIE!

HEY MOM, LET'S BUY A VCR!

...I'LL THINK ABOUT IT IF YOU GET GOOD GRADES THIS TERM.

I'M OFF!

REALLY?

IT'S A PROMISE, MOM!

MMMMM!

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY. ♡

I'M NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI.

MY FAMILY MOVED FROM OUR HOMETOWN OF OKINOMIYA ONE YEAR AGO.

I BET IT'LL BE ANOTHER HOT DAY...

HAS NATSUMI LEFT FOR SCHOOL ALREADY?

MY LEVEL-HEADED MOTHER.

HURRY AND FINISH YOUR BREAK-FAST.

OR I CAN'T CLEAN UP!

THERE ARE FOUR PEOPLE IN MY FAMILY.

DEAR... LOOKING LIKE THAT AGAIN!

AND...

NA-TSUMI-CHAN...

MY MILD-MAN-NERED FATHER.

...I'LL TRY...

AND MAKE SURE TO EAT YOUR CARROTS!

MY EVER-GENTLE GRAND-MOTHER.

...WATCH OUT FOR CARS.

WEEDS GROW FAST THIS TIME OF YEAR...

OH GRANDMA! YOU'RE ALREADY OUT HERE WEEDING?

AND SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE.

THEY MAY NOT BE THE KIND THEY DRAW IN PICTURES...

...BUT THEY'RE MY PRECIOUS FAMILY.

...BUT FORTU-NATELY, MY BEST FRIENDS MAKE UP FOR IT.

I LIKE SCHOOL.

THERE MAY BE NOTHING MORE BORING THAN LECTURES ...

...ORDINARY, HAPPY GIRL.

I'M PROBABLY JUST YOUR AVERAGE...

A woman's severed head was found...

...in a parking area in the suburbs of XX Prefecture.

As for her identity, the police ...

This human head that was discovered is believed to belong to a woman in her 70s or 80s.

THEY WOULDN'T NORMALLY CUT OFF JUST THE HEAD, AFTER ALL.

IS IT, LIKE, A DISMEMBERED BODY!?

...I'LL BET HER WHOLE BODY'S BEEN CUT INTO LITTLE PIECES.

HEHI

...THEY SAY AN OLD LADY'S HEAD WAS FOUND ON THE GROUND.

WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT? A HEAD!? THAT'S DISGUSTING!!

THERE ARE TOO MANY CRAZIES AROUND.

BUT THERE ARE TONS OF CASES LIKE THAT THESE DAYS!

OH... OH, COME ON. WE ARE NOT.

NATSUMI. YOU'RE SMILING.

I'M SURPRISED YOU GUYS CAN HAVE SO MUCH FUN TALKING ABOUT THAT.

...HEY.

I AGREE !!

I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE WORLD IF EVERYBODY WHO DID STUFF LIKE THAT WAS GIVEN THE DEATH PENALTY!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO FIX THOSE PEOPLE!

THE SHOCKING INCIDENTS ARE ALWAYS INSIDE THE TELEVISION.

AH HA HA HA...

The oldest girl, Natsumi, was rescued, sustaining serious injuries.

After-ward, her condition improved miracu-lously.

But due to the strong emo-tional shock ...

...NA-TSUMI-SAN.

A TRAGIC INCIDENT, JUST LIKE IN A MOVIE ...

WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED FOR ME...?

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY

DEMON EXPOSING ARC

ABOUT THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC"

ORIGINAL STORY: RYUKISHI07

VOLUME ONE OF THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC" IS FINALLY ON SALE. I AM DEEPLY, DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO KITO-SENSEI FOR MAKING SUCH A WONDERFUL MANGA!

THIS "DEMON EXPOSING ARC" IS A SIDE STORY OF *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY*. HOWEVER, I WROTE IT SO THAT EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH *HIGURASHI* CAN ENJOY IT ON ITS OWN. BUT I ALSO TRIED TO MAKE IT THE KIND OF STORY THAT THOSE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ORIGINAL WOULD ENJOY EVEN MORE. ...I HOPE THAT BOTH THOSE WHO KNOW THE ORIGINAL AND THOSE WHO DON'T WILL ENJOY THIS STORY.

I WROTE THE ORIGINAL DRAFT, BUT THAT ONLY MAKES UP ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC." KITO-SENSEI ADDED EXPONENTIALLY TO THAT AND MADE IT INTO THIS WONDERFUL STORY. SO IF YOU LIKED THIS ARC, THAT IS ALL THANKS TO KITO-SENSEI'S SKILL. I KNOW I'M REPEATING MYSELF, BUT KITO-SENSEI, REALLY, TRULY THANK YOU FOR MAKING SUCH A WONDERFUL STORY!

THE MAIN CHARACTER, NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI, HAS ABSOLUTELY NO SPECIAL SKILLS OR ABILITIES. THAT MEANS SHE'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS YOU WHO ARE READING THIS BOOK RIGHT NOW.

THIS "DEMON EXPOSING ARC" IS A STORY ABOUT A REAL-LIFE GIRL, JUST LIKE YOU, GETTING WRAPPED UP IN A HAIR-RAISING TRAGEDY. IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A STORY IN WHICH YOU GET WRAPPED UP IN A TRAGEDY. IF IT'S ONLY THROUGH THE PAGES OF A COMIC...THEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE BATHED IN BLOOD SPLATTER?

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

DEMON EXPOSING ARC

I KNOW. WE'LL LEAVE HER IN THOSE MOUN-TAINS ...

GET THE PLASTIC WRAP AND THE DUCT TAPE.

TRY TO PICK THE PLAINEST ONES, SO THEY'LL BE HARDER TO FIND.

GET THE BIGGEST BAGS WE HAVE OUT OF THE CLOSET.

NATSUMI.

...OR WE WON'T MAKE IT BACK BY MORNING.

HELP US *PACK OUR BAGS* INTO THE CAR...

HURRY AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES.

CHAPTER 4:
BREAKDOWN

NATSUMI ...?

NATSUMI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?

NATSU ...

DAD...

WHY...

...ARE WE DOING THIS...?

HOW ...?

...DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.

BUT!

...HOW COULD I DO SOME-THING SO TERRIBLE ...?

NGH ...

MY GRAND-MA...

SHE'S MY FAMILY!

LOOK WHAT I DID...

...WHAT I DID TO GRAND-MA!!

DAD ...!

NA-TSUMI ...

I'M... SCARED ...

I FEEL SO SORRY FOR GRANDMA.

AND MOM TOO...

MAYBE... WE SHOULD GO TO THE POLICE...

AND WHAT ARE WE DISCUSSING OVER HERE?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A LEISURELY CHAT.

...MOM...

BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW ***WHAT SHE'LL DO*** IF WE LEAVE HER ALONE.

HARUKO... LET'S LET NATSUMI GO ON TO BED.

SHE HAS SCHOOL TOMORROW, AND WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST WITHOUT HER...

THERE ARE TOO MANY PIECES. WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP TO GET RID OF THEM.

BUT ...

...WON'T DO ANY-THING.

.....

I...

CHANGE INTO SOMETHING YOU CAN MOVE AROUND IN. WE'RE GOING DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS.

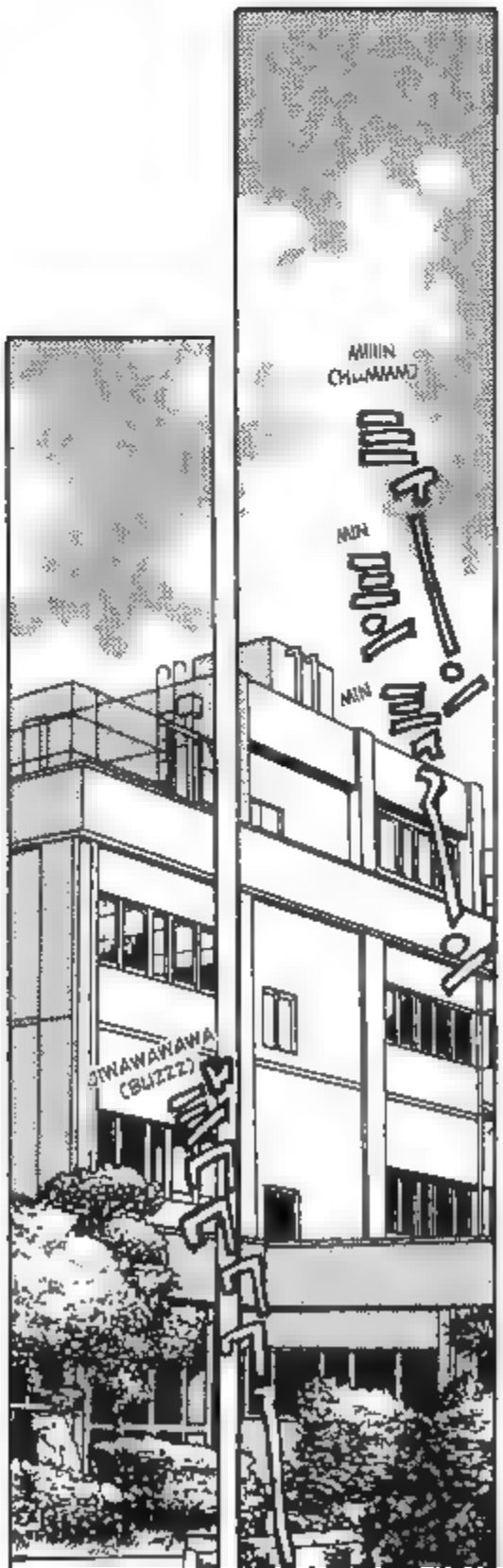
...IS THIS THE CURSE TOO...?

I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

MOM...

HA-RUKO ...

I'D SEEN THIS SCENE A FEW TIMES IN THE MOVIES...



I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WOULD HAPPEN SO CLOSE TO HOME...

AND WE HAVE FINAL EXAMS COMING UP TOO!

WE CAN'T BE DOING THIS!

BASHA (SPLASH)

BASHA

BASHA

MIIIN (HUMMM)

UGH, THIS IS THE WORST!

AN ENDUR-ANCE RUN ON A HOT DAY LIKE THIS?

MIN

MIN

MIN

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? THE WATER THAT CLEANSES MY HANDS IS A SPECIAL BRAND!

DON'T MAKE US WASTE OUR ENERGY!

JAAAAA

MIN

HEY! THAT'S GROSS!!

MIN

YOU'RE GETTING ME WET.

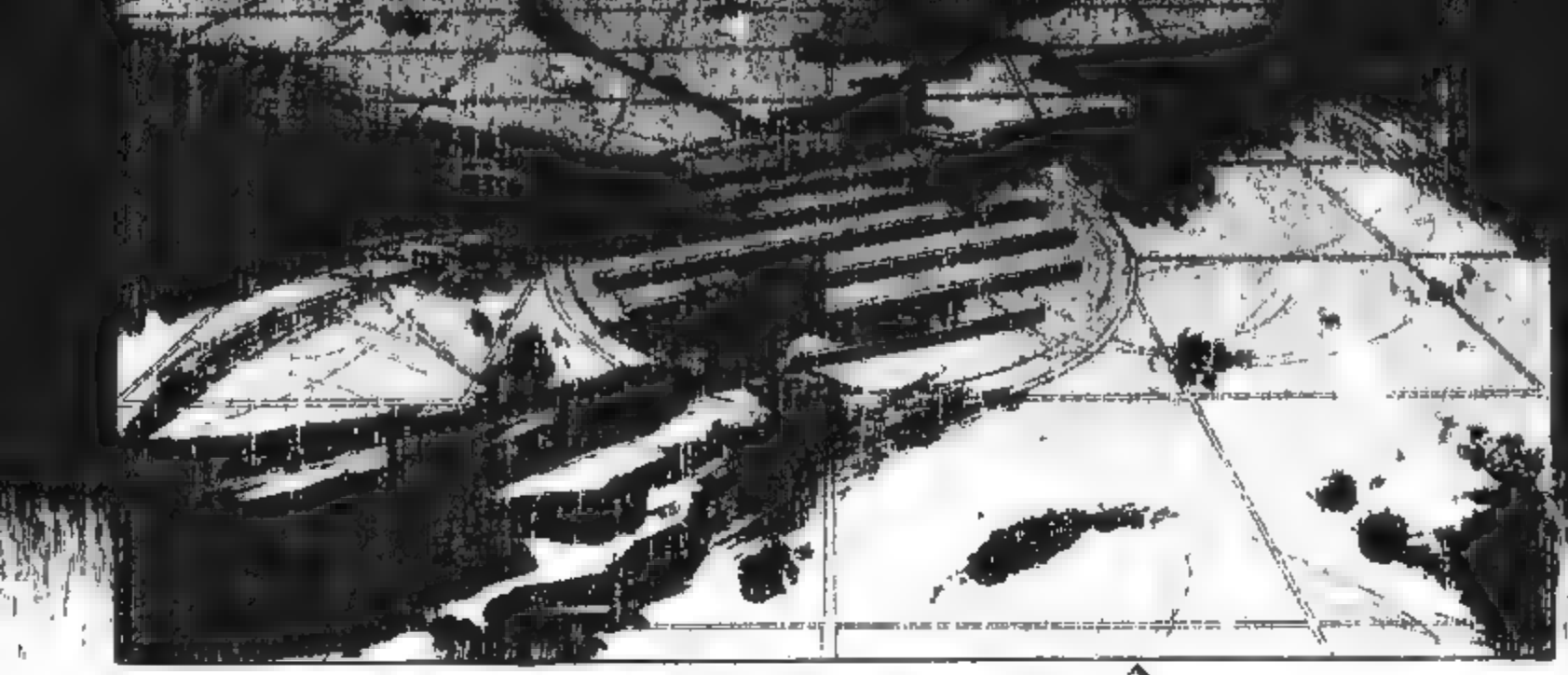
ANYWAY, COULD YOU WASH YOUR HANDS MORE QUIETLY ?

JAAAAA (FSSSHHH)

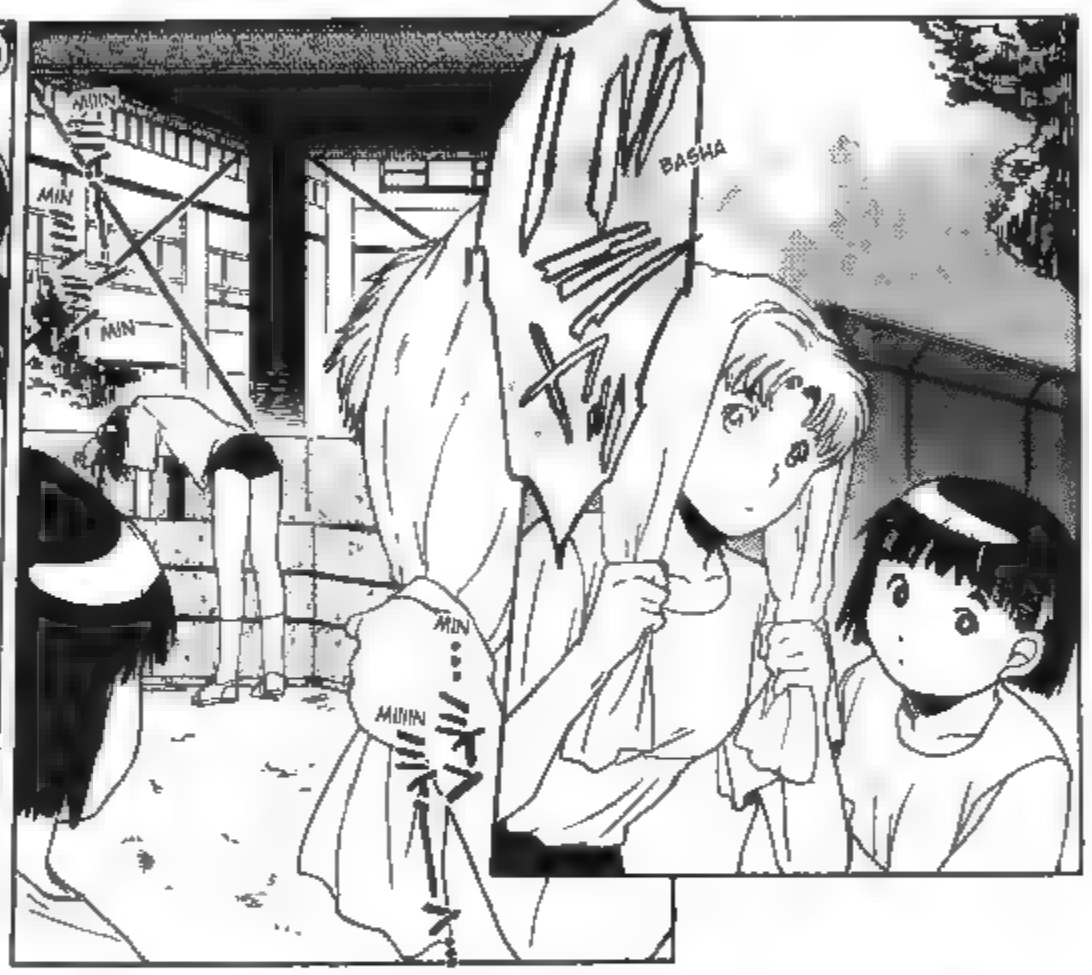
YOU'RE SO COLD TO ME, TAMAKO! AND WE USED TO TAKE BATHS TOGETHER!

YOU ALWAYS GET IT ALL WADDED UP!

ARGH, DON'T USE MY TOWEL!



JAAAAA


MIN
MIN
MIN
BASHA
MIIIN

WHOA! YOUR HANDS ARE BRIGHT RED!
JUST
NATSUMI? WHAT'S WRONG?

NA-TSUM!
...

...DON'T TELL ME YOU...

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO YOUR-SELF...?

YOU SCRUBBED WAY TOO HARD!

OH... I'M SORRY ...

I DID NOT!!

EH?

...TOUCHED POOP.

KIMI...

NATSUMI! IF YOU'RE MAD, I'M SORRY!

AH ...

I'M GONNA GO BACK TO CLASS, OKAY?

EH...? NA-TSUMI !?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY HELLO TO US, AKIRA-CHAN?

KuRU! (SPIN)

PITA (STOP)

STAY AWAY FROM ME.

YOU SMELL LIKE SWEAT.

ARE YOU THE REASON NATSUMI'S ACTING WEIRD?

OHHH, I SEEE! ♪

HEY AKIRA-CHAN...

...DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO NA-TSUMI?

GUKI (YANK)

WHAT!? MY SWEAT IS A SPECIAL BRAND—

LIKE MAYBE OYASHIRO-SAMA.

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MAYBE SHE'S GLUM BECAUSE YOU'RE *NOT* DOING ANY-THING. ♥

OR MAYBE IT'S SOME-THING ELSE.

REALLY ?

NO.

BUT SHE'S ESPE-CIALLY GLUM TODAY ...

SHE WENT HOME BY HERSELF YES-TERDAY TOO.

PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT NATSUMI MIGHT BE FROM HINA-MIZAWA.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR?

IT'S JUST A GROUND-LESS RUMOR ANYWAY.

NATSUMI SAID IT RIGHT OUT. SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

OF COURSE, I DON'T BELIEVE IT EITHER!

CHI-SATO!

THEY'VE SAID IT AT LEAST ONCE ABOUT ANY-ONE WHO'S TRANSFERRED FROM SOME-WHERE ELSE

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHER-ING HER.

...DOES ...

...KIMI-YOSHI KNOW?

ABOUT THE RUMOR ...?

THAT'S JUST HOW RIDICU-LOUS THE RUMORS ARE!

BUT I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BOTHERING YOU TOO, AKIRA.

MAYBE —

SHE'S BEEN MOPING FOR A FEW DAYS NOW

IF [illegible] HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, THEN SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK TOO!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE SHE WAS BORN! NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI IS NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI!

TAMAKO! THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

AKIRA! YOU'RE COMING TOO!

MIIIIN (HUMMM)

JIWAWAAA (BUZZZZ)

MIN

MIN

.....

すぱん

SUPAN (WHAP)

KYAAA

SAY THAT TO HER, DIMWIT!

YOU'RE SO DEVOTED, AKIRA-CHAN!

HEY! WHY DON'T WE ALL GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING FUN AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?

IT MIGHT HELP CHEER NATSUMI UP!

GO DO SOME-THING ...?

NOW!?

ISN'T THERE A SCHOOL RULE THAT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GO INTO EATING ESTABLISHMENTS IN OUR UNIFORMS?

AH?

BAD TIME?

NO, IT'S NOT THAT ...

AH HAHA HA

NOBODY'S STUPID ENOUGH TO KEEP THAT RULE ANYMORE!

AH...

RIGHT ...

HA HA

REMEMBER THAT CAKE SHOP WE WERE TALKING ABOUT?

WE WERE THINKING WE'D GO THERE.

SO? WHAT KIND OF DESSERT ARE YOU GOING TO TRY, TAMAKO?

BIKU (WINCE)

TIRAMISU!

I HEAR IT'S ITALIAN!

HMM.

THEY SAY IT'S LIKE A CHEESE-CAKE, SO I THINK IT SHOULD BE OKAY.

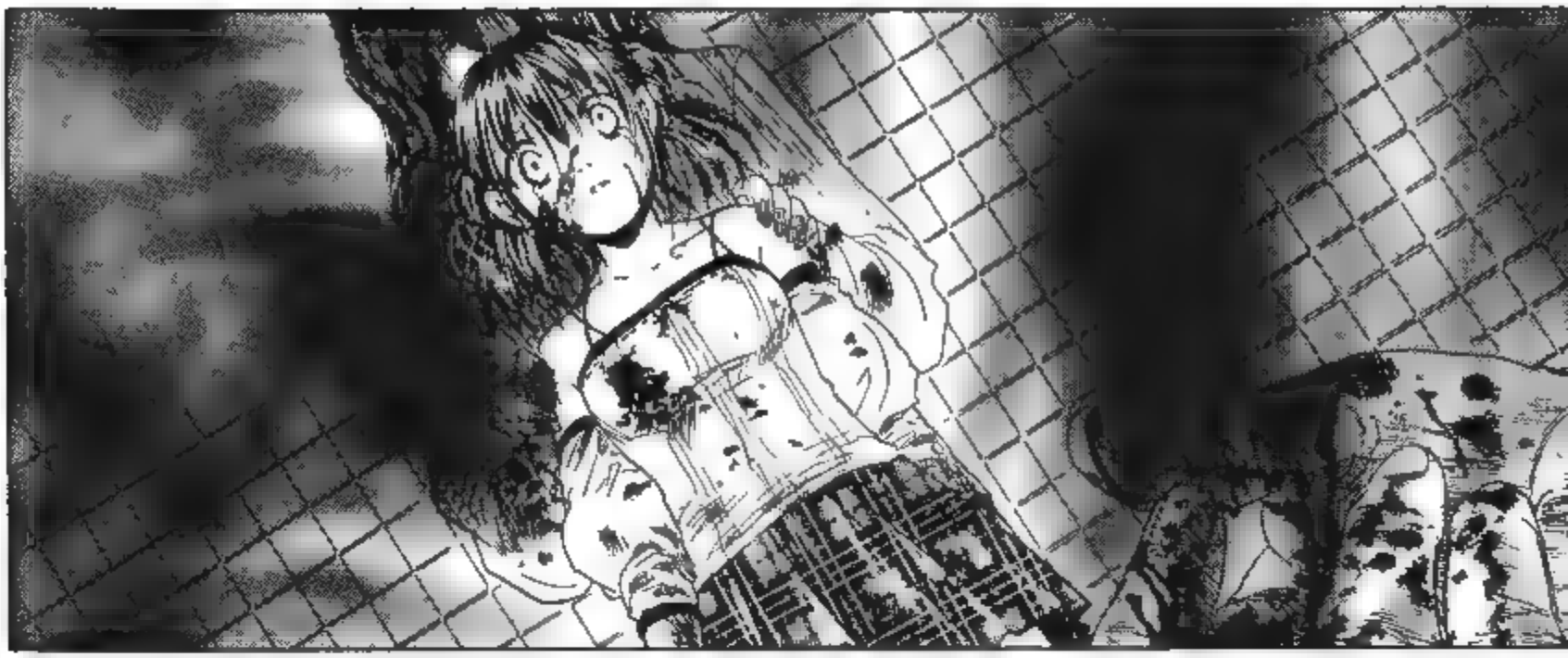
IT'D BETTER BE TRUE THAT IT'S NOT SWEET.

NATSUMI! YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME TO PAY FOR YOUR FOOD AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

WELL, IF YOU CAN'T EAT IT, CHISATO-CHAN, I'LL EAT IT FOR YOU!

...SCHOOL IS FUN...

SO FUN, I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S GOING ON AT HOME IS REALLY HAPPENING.



THE SMELL.

THE WARMTH.

THE FEEL.

THE SENSATION THAT WON'T LEAVE MY ARM...

AND NEITHER WILL WHAT WE DID.

THE SENSATION WON'T GO AWAY.

BUT IF SOME-DAY MY MEMORIES FADE...

...AND I CAN FORGET ALL OF IT...

...THEN MAYBE ...

I LIKE YOU, KIMIYOSHI.

... TOUDOU-KUN...

...I WANT...

...TO GIVE YOU...MY ANSWER...

I...

ZAZA CKHKHD

Breaking news.

This afternoon on a prefectural road in the mountains of S Prefecture ...

...a human head was discovered.

THESE ARE DANGEROUS TIMES.

A HEAD? LIKE FROM A DISMEMBERED BODY?

TV: DISMEMBERED BODY / HEAD DISCOVERED

WHAT? THE NEWS?

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DID YOU STOP?

According to another report...

NATSU-MI!

The head was found inside a large ruck-sack and wrapped in plastic bags.

A forester was passing by and thought it looked suspicious ...

MEN!

ON SALE

AND WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GO EAT CAKE!

The rucksack was abandoned in a relatively conspicuous place next to the guardrail.

S PREFEC-TURE IS PRETTY CLOSE ...

WHOA, GRUESOME! A DISMEMBERED BODY?

THAT'S SCARY ...

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. THAT STUFF'S BAD LUCK.

Police are speculating that it may have been a thrill killing.

This contradicts the purpose of cutting up the body, which would be to conceal the crime.

.....

I HAVE TO GO HOME...

1 PAN (FWIP).

CHISATO-CHAN! TAMAKO-CHAN!

I'M SORRY! I FORGOT MY WALLET!

YOUR WALLET?

IS IT OKAY IF I GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO GET IT?

I DON'T MIND PAYING FOR YOU.

THAT'S OKAY! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

ALL RIGHT. WE'LL GO ON AHEAD, THEN.

Here's a follow-up report.

TV: BREAKING NEWS!! DECAPITATED HEAD FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS

SHARI (PEEL)

SHARI

SHARI

SHARI

SHARI

The head appears to have belonged to a woman over the age of sixty.

The police are using dental records to determine her identity.

...WELCOME HOME, NATSUMI...

BATAN (SLAM)

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY...?

YOUR MOTHER... HAS BEEN WONDERING TOO.

WHAT COULD IT MEAN...?

...MOM...

...THAT REPORT...

OH... THIS...?

速報!! バラバラ 山林で

TV: BREAKING NEWS!! DECAPITATED HEAD FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS

YOUR FATHER WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HIDDEN THE HEAD...

GOTO (CLUNK)

...HOPELESS...

...

ZAKU (SHOONK)

HE REALLY IS...

I TOLD HIM SO MANY TIMES...

GURI (GRIND)

...HIDE IT SO NO ONE WILL FIND IT...

WHY IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THAT ...?

...WHY IS HE LIKE THAT ...!!?

ZAKU (STAB)

ZAKU

UNCOOP-ERATIVE ...

HE'S WISHY-WASHY ...

INCOM-PETENT ...

ZAKU

ZAKU

REALLY ...

BASA

BASA

BASASA

BASA (FLAP)

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

PIKU (TWITCH)

YOU WEREN'T AT SCHOOL.

HERA COPIND

...AH HA...

I CAN'T GO TO THE CAKE SHOP AFTER ALL.

KANA

KANA

KANA

NOTHING HAPPENED

SOMETHING..? LIKE WHAT?

EH ...?

SO SOMETHING DID HAPPEN.

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA (CHIRP)

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY LIES.

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

...I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO YOU, TOUDOU-KUN...

...IN THAT CASE...

...OH. WELL...

BECAUSE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE?

CHISATO-CHAN...

...AND TAMAKO-CHAN...

IF I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THEN YOU'LL ALL HATE ME.

.....

...I'M SORRY ...

...AND YOU TOO, TOU-DOU-KUN ...

...GRAND-MA TOLD ME NOT TO!

BE-SIDES ...

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!

I'M SORRY!

KIMI-YOSHI!

KIMI-YOSHI! LISTEN TO ME...

KIMI-YOSHI!

HELLO, KIMIYOSHI-SAN!

PARDON ME.

I'M SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

SU (SWOOP)

... OOPS.

NH! (SMIRK)

...DID I INTER-RUPT?

IF IT ISN'T MR. STUDENT FROM THE OTHER DAY.

HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED SINCE WE LAST TALKED?

I JUST PASSED BY YOUR HOME...

CAN WE HELP YOU?

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO KIMI-YOSHI-SAN.

...YOU... REPAINTED THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE.

I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE IT HAD BEEN GRAFFITIED ON OR SOMETHING.

THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING A LOT LATELY.

YOU SEE IT ALL THE TIME ON TV AND IN THE MAGAZINES, AM I RIGHT?

TO WARD OFF EVIL...

KIMI-YOSHI !!

OH RIGHT, RIGHT!

HEY KIMI-YOSHI-SAN!?

THEY SAID THEY HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A FEW DAYS!

YOUR NEIGHBORS WERE WORRIED.

HOW IS YOUR GRAND-MOTHER DOING?

YES, WHAT IS IT, AKASAKA-SAN?

...OOISHI-SAN.

HMMM.

YOU THINK SO TOO?

...AH.

...AWW.

SHE RAN AWAY FROM US AGAIN.

...SO THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY REALLY IS...

THAT'S PROBABLY IT...

...THIS IS INDEED A PROBLEM.

...DO YOU KNOW ...

...ABOUT KIMIYOSHI ...?

... WHAT ...

EVERY-THING THERE IS TO KNOW.

WE—

WE KNOW ALL KINDS OF THINGS!!

I'M SORRY. THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.

KI (GLARE)

OOISHI-SAN!

PLEASE DON'T PROVOKE HIM UNNECESSARILY!!

MUKAAA (GRRR)

BA (BLOCK)

EEE-EVERYTHING!

EVEN THINGS THAT CHILDREN DON'T NEED TO KNOW.

...WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?

I WANT TO KNOW.

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

WHAT IS HINAMIZAWA'S "OYASHIRO-SAMA"?

WHY DID YOU LEAVE IT SOMEWHERE SO EASY FOR THEM TO FIND!?
MOM! MOM, STOP!
WHY !!?
MOM!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

DO YOU UNDER-STAND HOW I FELT!!?

I THOUGHT I WOULD FINALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE BACK MY HAPPY LIFE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK I DID THAT FOR!?

EVERY-THING WENT PERFECTLY !!

BUT YOU...

BUT YOU RUINED EVERY-THING ...!

WE'LL THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

ALL TO-GETH-ER!

SAYING THAT STUFF WON'T HELP NOW.

LET'S THINK... OKAY?

MOM!

MOM, WAIT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

.....

YOU TWO DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING.

THEY FOUND IT...

THEY FOUND OUR CRIME!!

"WON'T HELP" ...?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO THINK ABOUT?

AH!!

PAN (SLAP)

THE HOUSE

ALL THE TIME WE SPENT HERE

OUR FUTURE LIFE

WHEN THE POLICE COME

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY FIND OUT IT WAS US

IT'S ALL A MESS NOW

...IT WILL ALL BE OVER...

DON'T FOLLOW ME.

I WANT TO BE ALONE.

MOM ...

DON (PAT)

THIS IS NOTHING. I'M FINE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATSUM?

OH...

DAD, ARE YOU OKAY?

TA (TEP)

SIWA (TEARY)

A GIRL'S FACE NEEDS TO BE TREATED WITH CARE...

YOUR MOTHER IS HARSH, ISN'T SHE?

...
DAD
...

OUR FAMILY ARGUING ...

...
FIGHTING
...

...
HURTING EACH OTHER...

HOW...

...DID THINGS END UP LIKE THIS?

IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED ANYTHING SPECIAL.

I JUST...

...WANTED TO BE HAPPY. THAT'S ALL...

...NA-TSUMI ...

...TO THE WAY WE USED TO BE...?

HOW CAN WE GO BACK ...

LET'S GO TO THE POLICE.

I'M SURE THAT'S THE BEST THING WE CAN DO ...

YOUR FATHER'S BEEN THINKING ALL THIS TIME...

...ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO...

...BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE.

...ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO SO THAT WE CAN ALL LIVE IN PEACE LIKE WE DID BEFORE ...

JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER SAYS, I WAS AFRAID OF DESTROYING WHAT WE HAVE...

...AND LOSING EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT UP...

...BUT MORE THAN THAT...

...I WAS AFRAID THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT MY ONLY DAUGHTER...

...AND IN THE END, I ONLY ADDED TO MY CRIMES ...

BUT I WAS A COWARD ...

NGH

IT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GRAND-MA.

SHE'LL UNDER-STAND IF WE TALK TO HER.

BUT DAD...

...MOM...

SO THAT I COULD GIVE MY-SELF THE COURAGE.

BESIDES, THAT'S WHY I PUT THE HEAD IN A PLACE WHERE IT WOULD BE EASY TO FIND.

I WANTED TO GIVE MYSELF A PUSH.

DA—

YOU REALLY ARE...

... HOPELESS ...

BOTA DRIP

BOTA

BOTA

TAKING CARE OF MOTHER.

TALKING TO THE REALTORS.

DOING THE HOUSE-WORK.

BRINGING UP OUR DAUGHTER ...

YOU PUSHED IT ALL ONTO ME...

SO WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S WILLING TO WORK FOR OUR FAMILY.

BUT...

...NEEDED MY FAMILY'S HELP...!

...THE ONE TIME WHEN I REALLY...

CHAPTER 4 ◎ END

(GOBO)
CHUGH!

CHAPTER 5: SECRETS

DAD!

AH...

AHHH ...!

...DAD...

...GH ...

NO...

BIKU (WINCE)

IT'S DAD'S FAULT...

ううっ...

HIKIKU (HIC)

HIKIKU ううっ

IT'S DAD...

DAD ...

MOM...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...

MOM...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! IT WAS DAD!!

DELIBERATELY HIDING THE BODY WHERE THEY COULD FIND IT!

IT WAS GOING SO WELL! EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO GO BACK TO NORMAL...

BUT NONE OF YOU WOULD HELP ME...

IT'S DAD'S FAULT !!

AH...

OWW..!

WHY!?

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO STOP ME!?

AH...!

WE'RE FAMILY!!

WE'RE FAMILY!

DOSA (THUD)

WE'RE FAMILY!!

BA (BOLT)

I GOT A COMPLI-MENT...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME.

PARA (FLUTTER)

HUH?...

THEY SAID, "YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY HAIR."

...HEH HEH...

EVERYONE WOULD SAY IT...

"YOUR SKIN IS SO WHITE! I'M JEALOUS."

AND...

...MOM...?

NOTHING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENED IN OUR OLD TOWN...

MOM ...?

.. EVERY DAY WAS SO FUN ...

IT WAS THE LIFE I HAD ALWAYS DREAMED OF...

I FINALLY GOT THIS WORLD!

I BELONG HERE!!

I JUST WANT TO LIVE EVERY DAY IN PEACE! I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THIS LIFE!!

BUT IT'S DIF-FERENT HERE!

IT DIDN'T MATTER IF I WAS AROUND OR NOT.

NO ONE EVER GAVE ME A SECOND GLANCE.

THAT'S WHY I KILLED HER! TO PROTECT OUR PEACEFUL LIFE!

THAT'S WHY SHE'S THE ENEMY!

BUT GRANDMA DESTROYED OUR PEACE-FUL WORLD!

AND DAD IS THE ENEMY TOO!!

ARE YOU MY ENEMY TOO, NATSUMI?

YOU ARE MY ENEMY...

I DID IT BECAUSE NONE OF MY FAMILY WANTED TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY!!

YOU ALL THOUGHT IT WHEN GRANDMA DIED, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU THOUGHT, "NOW WE CAN FINALLY LIVE IN PEACE!"

IF ONLY YOUR FATHER HADN'T STEPPED OUT OF LINE!

WE WERE SO CLOSE TO GETTING OUR OLD LIFE BACK!

HE DELIBERATELY LEFT PART OF GRANDMA'S BODY WHERE SOMEONE WOULD FIND IT!

AND ON TOP OF THAT HE SAYS, "LET'S GO TO THE POLICE"!?

...MOM...

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME GO BACK TO MY OLD LIFE!?

THEN WHY!?

BAN (BAM)

YOU'RE MY ENEMY TOO, NA-TSUMI!!

THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T LET ME BE HAPPY!

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO MEAN TO ME!

PARA (FLUTTER)

YOU HATE ME!

YOU HATE ME FOR KILLING GRANDMA!

I HATE YOU...

...I HATE YOU...

I HATE YOU ALL.

I HATE YOU!!

WHAT HAP-PENED ...?

WHO DID THIS ...?

IS IT BECAUSE I WANTED GRANDMA TO DIS-APPEAR?

IS IT BECAUSE WE MOVED HERE?

...WHAT WENT WRONG?

IS IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN OYASHIRO-SAMA...!?

I'M SORRY ...!!

IF I DID SOME-THING WRONG, I'M SORRY!

SO PLEASE STOP, MOM!

NA-TSUMI.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. DON'T BE AFRAID.

I BELIEVE YOU...!

I'M SORRY ...

I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY!

I'M SOR-RY!

I WOULDN'T DO SOME-THING SO TERRIBLE TO A FAMILY MEMBER...

I'M SORRY ...

I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY ...

I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY.

IT WILL BE OVER IN A SECOND.

IT WON'T HURT.

...WELL, WELL...

IT REALLY IS DIFFERENT THAN OKINOMIYA.

I'M SORRY...!

ESPECIALLY THIS! WE WOULD NEVER THINK TO PUT ANKO ON A CHOCOLATE PARFAIT!

I HATE TO GIVE UP ON THE CREAM SODA, BUT I THINK I'LL HAVE THIS. ♥

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ONE TOO, AKASAKA-SAN? YOU LIKE THIS KIND OF THING, DON'T YOU?

...I'LL PASS, THANKS.

THEN I'LL HAVE THE SWEET PARFAIT WITH ANMITSU ON TOP. ♥

...A COFFEE FOR ME, PLEASE.

YES, SIR.

AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, SIR?

HE'LL HAVE THE PANCAKE COMBO WITH ORANGE JUI—

COFFEE.

TWO COFFEES. GOT IT. ♥

WELL? AKIRA... TOUDOU-SAN?

I UNDER-STAND YOU'D LIKE TO ASK US SOME-THING...?

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE'S OYASHIRO-SAMA AND ABOUT KIMIYOSHI.

WELL...WE DON'T MIND TELLING YOU...

...BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE UNFAIR?

UNFAIR?

YES, UNFAIR.

I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN. DON'T TRY AND FOOL US.

WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING.

LET'S MAKE IT FAIR. ONE QUESTION FOR ONE ANSWER!

WE HAD QUITE A FEW THINGS THAT WE WANTED TO ASK NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI-SAN TOO.

BUT A CERTAIN SOMEONE GOT IN OUR WAY NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE ...

...AND NOW HE THINKS HE CAN ASK US ALL THE QUESTIONS... YOU KNOW?

NOW, WHAT'S YOUR FIRST QUESTION, TOUDOU-SAN?

THERE IS SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO ASK, ISN'T THERE?

KIMIYOSHI ...

.....

.....

IS THAT YOUR QUES-TION?

OR...

NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI IS FROM HINAMIZAWA, ISN'T SHE?

YES.

NATSUMI-SAN HAS THE BLOOD OF HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE.

MORE ACCURATELY, HER GRANDMOTHER IS.

ALL RIGHT, NOW IT'S OUR TURN.

ANYTHING WILL DO. EVEN THE SMALLEST, MOST INSIGNIFICANT THING...

...BUT HAS THERE BEEN ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI-SAN RECENTLY?

NO.

...ALL RIGHT, GO AHEAD AND ASK YOUR NEXT QUES-TION.

I SEE...

IS THAT SO...?

IT'S ABOUT THE LOCAL RELIGION OF HINAMIZAWA.

YES, YES, OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SUCH CURSES?

...EVEN A MAN-MADE CURSE?

BECAUSE ANYTHING CAN BECOME A CURSE TO SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN IT!

BUT I WON'T DENY THEIR EXISTENCE EITHER.

OH, EXCUSE ME!

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ONE QUESTION FOR ONE ANSWER.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM.

...OR THE THEORY THAT IT'S CAUSED BY ALIEN UFOS...

LIKE THAT THE CURSE IS BEING CAUSED BY OSSIE, THE MYSTERIOUS DINOSAUR THAT LIVES IN ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE...

... THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF THEO-RIES.

NO, YOU SEE...

MAN-MADE?

AND THE GIRL WHO MIGHT HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

...WE DON'T KNOW ANY OF THAT.

WHO, WHY, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE ...

ONE OF THE THEORIES IS THAT IT IS A HUMAN CONSPIR-ACY...

...THE DAY BEFORE THE CURSE OF THE HINAMIZAWA GAS DISASTER.

...WAS KILLED BY *HUMAN HANDS*...

ACTUALLY ...

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CHANGES IN KIMIYOSHI-SAN RECENTLY?

NOW HERE'S OUR QUESTION.

NO, I DON'T MEAN NATSUMI-SAN.

I JUST ANSWERED THAT...

I MEAN THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY.

AND THERE HAVE BEEN "BIZARRE INCIDENTS" IN THE HOMES OF ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THEM.

...THERE'S A SURPRISING NUMBER OF HINAMIZAWA RELATIONS IN THE PREFECTURES AROUND HERE.

ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF INCIDENTS.

WE'VE HEARD ALMOST NOTHING STRANGE IN REGARD TO THEIR HOME.

THEIR MOUTHS ARE SHUT UP LIKE CLAMS.

THE NEIGHBORS PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.

IT'S STRANGER THAT THERE HASN'T BEEN AN INCIDENT!

THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY IS FROM HINAMIZAWA.

THAT'S WHAT'S SO STRANGE.

ISN'T THAT BECAUSE—

BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG?

...SO IN THE END...

...YOU GUYS ARE NO DIFFERENT.

THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO ASK YOU...

...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

WE WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

KATAN (CLANK)

カチ

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, YOU DECIDE THAT PEOPLE FROM HINAMIZAWA ARE GOING TO GO CRAZY.

YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM ALL THOSE PEOPLE CLAMORING ON ABOUT DEMONS AND CURSES!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT ...

GATA (CLATTER)

YES, YES, YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT!

EVERY-THING YOU SAY—IT BURNS MY EARS!

BUT...

YOU ASKED AT THE VERY BEGINNING.

YOU WANTED TO CONFIRM THAT SHE WAS REALLY FROM HINAMIZAWA.

...YOU AREN'T ANY DIFFERENT YOURSELF...

...AKIRA TOUDOU-SAN!

...*WHAT IF NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI IS RELATED TO THOSE CRAZY PSYCHOPATHS THAT KILL PEOPLE?*

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WERE ASKING ...

...YOU DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.

YOU HAD AN INKLING OF WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT YOU KEPT AVERTING YOUR EYES FROM IT...

YOU DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT THAT NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI IS FROM THE HINAMIZAWA!

BAN (BAM)

AKIRA...KUN!?

WAIT ...!

THE NUMBER OF CASES WHERE PEOPLE CLOSE TO THE FAMILIES HAVE GOTTEN WRAPPED UP IN THE CURSE IS FAR FROM SMALL.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO CROSS THE STREET WHEN THE LIGHT IS RED!

YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL!

ARE YOU REALLY FROM A PUBLISHING COMPANY?

THIS IS LIKE AN INTER-ROGA-TION.

BUT THANKS TO YOU, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

THANK YOU.

I WILL PROTECT NATSUMI!

NO MATTER WHAT!

OOISHI-SAN...

LET'S STOP BY THE DISTRICT PRECINCT. THERE SHOULD BE SOME FAMILIAR FACES THERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...

...WELL, THEN... SHALL WE BE HEADING OUT AS WELL?

...WHY DID YOU SAY THAT TO HIM?

BECAUSE HE ASKED US WHAT THE CURSE WAS.

HOW?

PRO-TECT HER?

FROM WHAT?

STIRRIN (RISING)

JIRIRIRIN

WHAT CAN I DO?

RIRIN (ARRING)

NA-TSUMI!

JIRIRIRI

THE PHONE ...

.....

NA-TSUMI!

NATSU-MI!!!!!!!

1530 号

PHONE RING

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

PURURURU

(BARRING)

HELP ME!

NA-TSUMI !?

NATSUMI !!

NA—

...“HELP ME”...?

TSUUU

TSUUU

バラバラ殺人事件
頭部発見

TV: DISMEMBERED BODY / HEAD DISCOVERED

THAT'S WHAT'S SO STRANGE.

THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY IS FROM HINAMIZAWA.

CHAPTER 5 ◎ END

CHAPTER 6:
SHOWDOWN

The woman's body found today in S Prefecture has yet to be identified.

The prefectural police inuestigation is examining the possibility of a connection to the series of Hinamizawa incidents...

TV: BREAKING NEWS! / LIVE / SCENE OF THE DISCOVERY!

The worshippers of Oyashiro-sama in the Hinamizawa region have been known to practice a unique ceremony in which they slice open the belly and pull out the entrails.

So when the murderer in this S Prefecture case cut off and abandoned the head, that was...?

Yes.

Perhaps they thought to conceal the traces of the ritual.

So you mean...they actually exposed a PART of the crime in order to hide the REAL crime.

At first glance, it might seem like it's a dismembered body, unrelated to the Hinamizawa incidents.

Furthermore, the act of leaving only the head, as if to say "Hey, look at this!" is extremely shocking.

Either way, we're catching glimpses of a vicious and cunning murderer.

HUFF

HUFF

THE WORLD HAS GONE CRAZY LATELY!

KDOSA (THUD)

SO FAR WE'VE ONLY DONE THE AUTOPSY, BUT I'M SURE THEY WERE LEFT BY THE SAME PERSON!

THIS IS THE TORSO AND THE LEFT LEG THAT WE DISCOVERED ON OUR BORDER WITH S PREFECTURE.

SIGN: TRAFFIC SAFETY

ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIVABLE!

IT'S SO BIZARRE ...

KILLING AN ELDERLY WOMAN, CUTTING HER APART, AND SCATTERING THE PIECES!

...IT'S NORMAL.

...IT'S NORMAL, ISN'T IT.

I THINK WE HAVE IT!

THE S PREFECTURE INVESTIGATION REPORT?

YOU'RE HOLDING A JOINT INVESTIGATION, CORRECT?

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE RECORDS FROM S PREFECTURE?

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF DEATH?

OH NO, JUST TALKING TO OURSELVES.

...EH?

GURIN (FWIP)

WE WILL. ♥

WAIT RIGHT HERE. ♥

WHY IS A POLICEWOMAN FROM THE TRAFFIC DIVISION ILLICITLY SPREADING INTERNAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE FIRST INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION!?

OH, WHY NOT?

HER NAME'S MADOKA-CHAN, YOU KNOW.

THAT'S NOT A REASON!

I'M TRULY HAPPY FOR HER.

I HEAR SHE USED TO WORK IN A COED PUB, BUT THEN SHE WENT JOB HUNTING AND GOT HIRED HERE.

LET'S SEE... CAUSE OF DEATH, BLUNT TRAUMA TO THE HEAD... SO IT WAS A HEAD WOUND.

AND HER LEFT ANKLE WAS SPRAINED.

FOLDER: AUTOPSY REPORT

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, KURA-CHAN.

YOU SEE, HER INHERENT CHEERFULNESS HAS PUT HER ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION.

HE'S CLOSER TO HER THAN TO HIS WIFE.

IS THAT THE ONLY FATAL INJURY?

YES. THAT AND THE INJURIES FROM WHEN THE BODY WAS CUT UP.

MAYBE SHE GOT PUSHED BACK IN THE STRUGGLE, THE POOR THING.

SHE MUST HAVE HIT HER HEAD IN A BAD SPOT...

SIGN: TRAFFIC SAFETY

BUT I REALLY CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

EVERY-ONE'S ON EDGE AS IT IS WITH THE HINAMIZAWA INCIDENTS.

OH, COME ON, KURA-CHAN.

MADOKA-CHAN, YOU'RE REALLY GETTING THE HANG OF THIS POLICE-WOMAN GIG.

I'D LIKE YOU TO INVESTIGATE ME SOME-TIME. NN-FU-FU.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, AND I MEAN THAT IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE.

...HAVE THERE BEEN MANY HINAMIZAWA INCIDENTS?

OH... I'M SORRY, WHAT AM I SAYING?

交通

SIGN: TRAFFIC / LOOK RIGHT AND LEFT ONE MORE TIME

I HEAR ABOUT A NEW ONE MORE OFTEN THAN I HEAR MY OWN NAME.

WHAT'S HAPPENING LATELY ARE CASES WHERE PEOPLE ARE MISTAKEN FOR SOMEONE FROM HINAMIZAWA.

BECAUSE THEIR LAST NAMES ARE SIMILAR OR SOMETHING

LAST NAMES?

YOU KNOW! THE THREE FAMILIES!

ONOZAKI-SAN, OR FURUDATE-SAN...THERE ARE A LOT OF MIX-UPS!

THEN THEY GET BULLIED AT WORK OR SCHOOL.

THERE ARE EVEN CASES WHERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INJURE PEOPLE. BRANDISHING KNIVES AT SCHOOL AND STUFF LIKE THAT.

BECAUSE OF A MISUNDER-STANDING ...

BUT AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE EASY TO WRITE UP PROTOCOL AND REPORTS. ♥

THE MOTIVE IS ALWAYS "THEY WERE FROM HINAMIZAWA" OR "PEOPLE FROM HINAMIZAWA ARE CRAZY."

HA-HA-HA.

LIKE "THAT PERSON'S CRAZY. THEY'RE FROM HINAMIZAWA."

THERE ARE OTHER CASES WHERE SOMEBODY DOES SOMETHING A LITTLE STRANGE, AND PEOPLE START SAYING THEY'RE FROM HINAMIZAWA.

THAT'S NOT REALLY SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT, IS IT?

PARA (FLIP)

...IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, AKASAKA-SA...

OOISHI-SAN!

DID I MAKE YOU MAD?

I'M SORRY? OH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME ...?

EH!? AH... WHAT?

GATAN (CLATTER)

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY.

PICTURE) FOR HEAD OF OKINOMIYA ASSEMBLY / TAKAHARU SONOZAKI

THEY'RE JUST AN ORDINARY ...

... HINAMIZAWA FAMILY...

THEN ...

FOUR OR FIVE DAYS!?

UM, LEAVING ROOM FOR ERROR, IT WAS ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE DAYS AGO. .

AH... EH... YES, SIR!

MADOKA-CHAN! ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH!

...WHEN WE SAW HER TODAY ...

...SHE HAD ALREADY ...!

THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY...!

DOSA (THUD)

PIN POOON
PIN POOON
PIN POOON
PIN POOON
PIN POOON
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HAAA (FWOOO)
はぁ
.....

OPEN IT!

IT'S NOT THAT HARD!

GI (CLENCH)

GI (CREAK)

PATAH
(SHUT)
19
R
ඵසින
(ඛසිනක)

SHIN (SILENCE)
MISHI (CREAK)
...NA-TSUMI ...?
PUNCH SPLIT!

PORJIN (BADUK)

NATSU ..

..MI. !

まだオヤシロサマの終らぬ惨劇

TRAGEDY / MYSTERIOUS DEATHS
CHILDREN AND FAMILY / CURSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA

NATSUMI...

NO !!

TOU-DOU-KUN, STAY AWAY !!!

TOUDOU-KUN!!

WHERE WERE YOU HIDING...?

NATSUMI?

DON'T KILL ANYONE ELSE.

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU ALL THIS TIME...

THAT'S WHY

IT'S BECAUSE HE CAME WHEN I MOST WANTED HIM TO STAY AWAY...

NO...

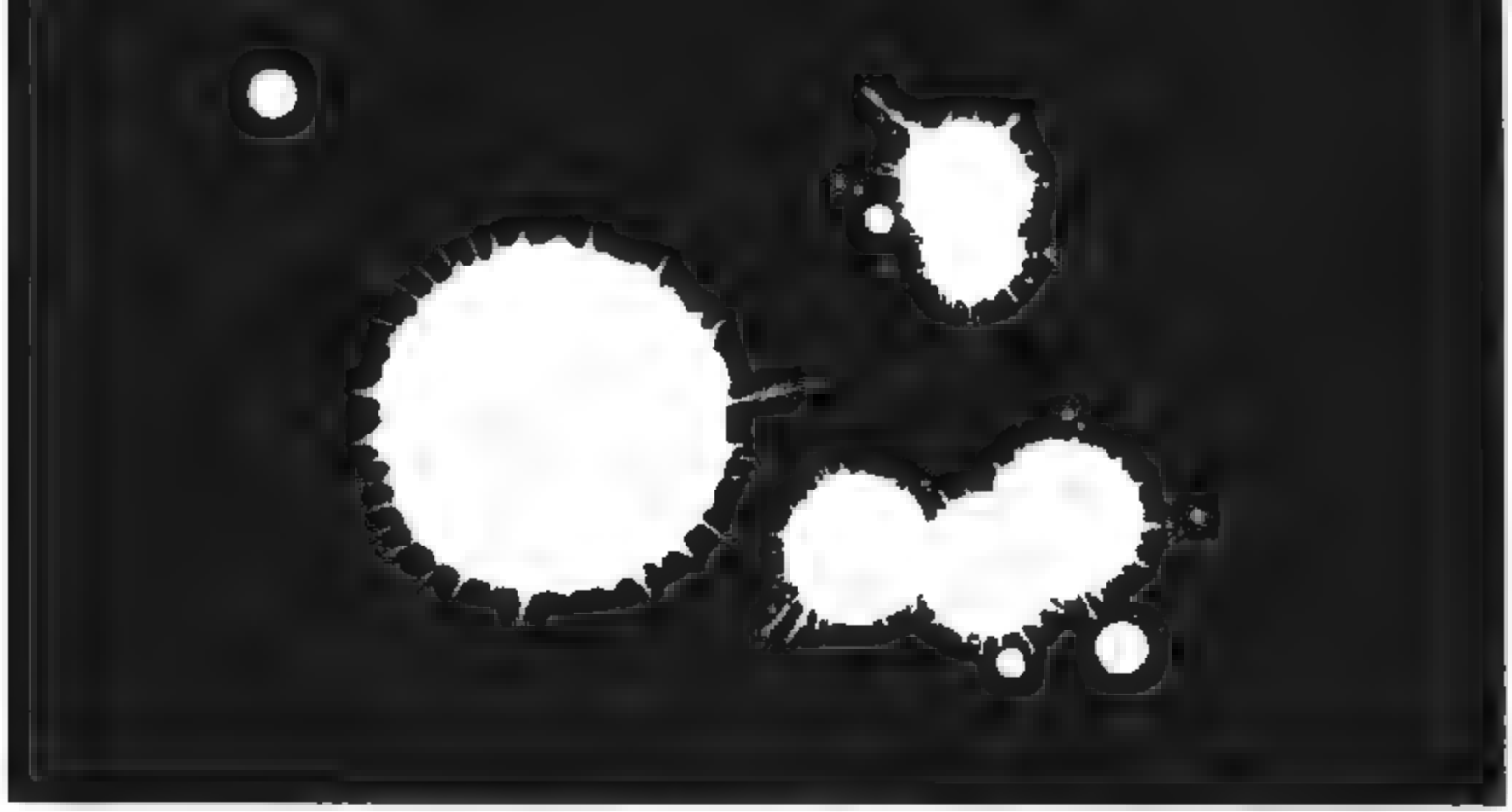
LET GO, NATSUMI!

!?

STOP IT...

STOP IT!

Hah (S.F.X.)
.....



.. a man and woman in their forties found at the scene, unconscious, not breathing, and with no pulse.

They're in cardio-pulmonary arrest.

We've contacted the emergency room at N Hospital. Please begin transport.

SIGN: KEEP OUT

立入禁

I HEAR YOU GOT HIT IN THE HEAD.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HEAD INJURIES CAN BE PRETTY SCARY.

YOU SHOULD LET THEM TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL AND LOOK YOU OVER.

...ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CALLED THE POLICE?

.....

WHEN THEY SEE THE NEED, IT'S A CITIZEN'S DUTY TO CALL.

SHOULDN'T I HAVE?

THERE YOU ARE...

...OOISHI-SAN.

SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY MAJOR INJURIES ...

WE'RE DONE OVER HERE TOO.

...BUT FOR NOW...SHE HAD BETTER GO TO THE HOSPITAL.

I'M SURPRISED THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES COOPERATED.

...YOU PULL SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR SLEEVE?

KIPPARI (FRANK)

I ONLY REQUESTED THAT THEY LET ME SIT IN WHEN THEY TALKED TO HER.

NATSUMI.

.....

NA-TSUMI-CHAN?

BIKU (TWITCH)

GATA

GATA (SHIVER)

GATA

...I...

I'M SORRY!

I'VE... BEEN LYING TO YOU...

...ALL THIS TIME...

...ALL OF IT...

ABOUT MY FAMILY AND ABOUT MY GRANDMA ...

THE TRUTH IS, I'M FROM OKINOMIYA...

...AND GRANDMA IS FROM HINAMI-ZAWA—

The daughter was rescued, but due to the severe mental shock...

...it will be impossible to get any details from her right away.

.....

Our next story...

CHAPTER 6 END

PI
THE PATIENT HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.
PI (BEEP)
PI

PI

WOULD YOU GO CALL THE DOCTOR?
YES.

YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR THREE DAYS!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, KIMIYOSHI-SAN?

CHAPTER 7: TRUTH

CHI-SATO!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!

DID YOU GET THE CAKE?

週間夕日特別増刊
未解決事件と
呪術と祭り
雛見沢村との関係は?

週間夕日特別増刊
未解決事件と
呪術と祭り
雛見沢村との関係は?

NN?

...TA-MAKO ...

WRAPPING WESTERN CONFECTIONS — FRANÇOIS

MAGAZINE: WEEKLY EVENING SPECIAL EDITION / UNSOLVED MYSTERIES, SPELLS, AND CURSES / WHAT IS THE CONNECTION WITH HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE?

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE INCIDENT....

...AND NOBODY ELSE CARES ANYMORE ...

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU, CHISATO?

.....

AND HERE WE ARE RIGHT ABOUT TO VISIT NATSUMI IN THE HOSPITAL!

DON'T "NN?" ME! YOU'RE READING THOSE BOOKS AGAIN?

B... BUT...

PEOPLE EAT UP TRAGEDIES.

SIGN: GENERAL HOSPITAL
BELOW: NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI-SAMA

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT IT WON'T BE REPORTED IF IT'S NOT ANYTHING UNUSUAL...

THEY'RE NOT HURTING FOR THINGS TO PUT IN NEWSPAPER HEADLINES.

I WONDER...IF THAT'S A GOOD THING...

...IT'S BECAUSE SIMILAR THINGS ARE HAPPENING ALL OVER JAPAN.

...BUT NOW EVERYONE ACTS LIKE THEY'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT...

THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGER HINAMIZAWA INCIDENTS IN THE AREA, AND THE WHOLE TOWN WAS IN AN UPROAR ABOUT IT...

THINKING ABOUT NATSUMI AND HER FAMILY...

...BEING FORGOTTEN...

503

公由 夏美様

CHI-SATO-CHAN!

TAMAKO-CHAN!

NO MATTER HOW CRUEL A REALITY IT IS.

IT'S LIKE THE MOVIES AND MUSIC.

WE GET AMUSEMENT FROM A REALITY THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US.

AKIRA-CHAN!?

I THOUGHT YOU'D BEEN UNSOCIAL LATELY...

I'M SO HAPPY! YOU CAME TO SEE ME!

KIPPARI (FRANK)

キュッ

HOW'S IT GOING? ANY PROG-RESS?

NONE.

OHH

OH, MATH?

THAT IS ONE OF YOUR WEAK SUB-JECTS.

I DON'T WANT TO FALL BEHIND WHILE I'M IN THE HOSPITAL.

HE'S HELPING ME STUDY.

NA-TSUMI! WE BROUGHT CAKE!

WHAT-EVER, IT'S TIME FOR A BREAK FROM STUDYING!

ZUSHI CLEAND

I CAN EVEN SAY "DONKEY WHO'S WHIPPED IN THE BUTT WITH A CARROT DANGLING IN FRONT OF HIS NOSE" IN ENGLISH!

B-BUT YOU SEE, TOUDOU-KUN, MATH IS THE ONLY THING I'M BAD AT!

I'M REALLY GOOD AT ENGLISH!

...WHEN WOULD YOU USE THAT?

CH... CHISATO-CHAN!!

THERE'S NOTHING LESS HEALTHY THAN FOR A YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN TO BE SITTING AROUND A BED ALL DAY LONG.

IT'S A NICE DAY TODAY. LET'S GO EAT ON THE ROOF!

YEAH ...

LET'S GO, NATSUMI!

KATAN (CLATTER)

BASA (RUSTLE)

YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANT TALKING TO ME ABOUT "UNHEALTHY."

IT'S YOUR PUNISH-MENT FOR GOING BEHIND OUR BACKS AND STEALING NATSUMI!

WHAT-EVER. YOU CAN COME AFTER YOU PUT THESE FLOWERS IN A VASE!

ぽん。
PON (PAT)

GO ON AHEAD AND WAIT FOR ME, NATSUMI.

I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

ぱたん。
PATAN (SHUT)

BIKU

CHISATO! CALM DOWN, CHISATO !!

BIKU! CRINGE

AAAHHH! AKIRA! YOU JERK! WHEN DID YOU START DOING THAT!!?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DO YOU FEEL SICK?

NO, NOT REALLY...

FIRST OF ALL, WHY NO NAME HONOR-IFIC!?

DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI

...I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD AND SAY THIS...

...BUT I DON'T THINK HE TRUSTS YOU, OOISHI-SAN.

YOU PAID US TOO MUCH FOR THE COFFEE THE OTHER DAY. ♥

SO WE CAME TO GIVE YOU YOUR CHANGE.

NOTE: NOSHI

...OOISHI-SAN...

WE ONLY NEED A FEW MINUTES. ♥

WOULD YOU AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY?

WHAT'S TAKING AKIRA-CHAN SO LONG?

CHISATO WAS SAYING WE SHOULD GO TO THE BEACH!

THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST SUMMER BREAK TOGETHER.

A SWIM-SUIT?

ERK!

HEY NATSUMI, DO YOU HAVE A SWIM-SUIT?

MAYBE HE RAN AWAY...

WHAT IS THIS? IT'S SO SWEET!!

I KNOW! WE COULD ALL GO BUY NEW ONES TOGETHER. ♥

THE COFFEE! FAST!

TAMAKO, COFFEE! COFFEE!

...IT'S NOT TRUE...

WE FIGURED WE'D WEAR NATSUMI OUT IF WE PARTIED TOO MUCH ...

WE WENT AHEAD AND ATE THE CAKE WITHOUT YOU.

YEAH.

YOU'RE LEAV-ING?

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, AKIRA!

...HOW DID WE DO TODAY?

...HEY AKIRA-CHAN...

DID WE TALK TO NATSUMI LIKE NORMAL?

NATSUMI WAS SMILING, WASN'T SHE?

THEN THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

NATSUMI.

ナツミ！

SUITON (SIT)

AFU- (YAWN)

I TOLD HER I WAS JUST GONNA FALL ASLEEP, SO SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO...

YOUR HAIR...

!

YEAH.

CHISATO-CHAN TIED IT UP FOR ME.

YOU... CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT?

I HAVE BAD DREAMS.

THEY GAVE ME MEDICINE FOR IT, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK.

THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ENOUGH SLEEP THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS.

EVEN THOUGH I SLEPT FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS BEFORE THAT.

...SOME-TIMES...

...I WONDER.

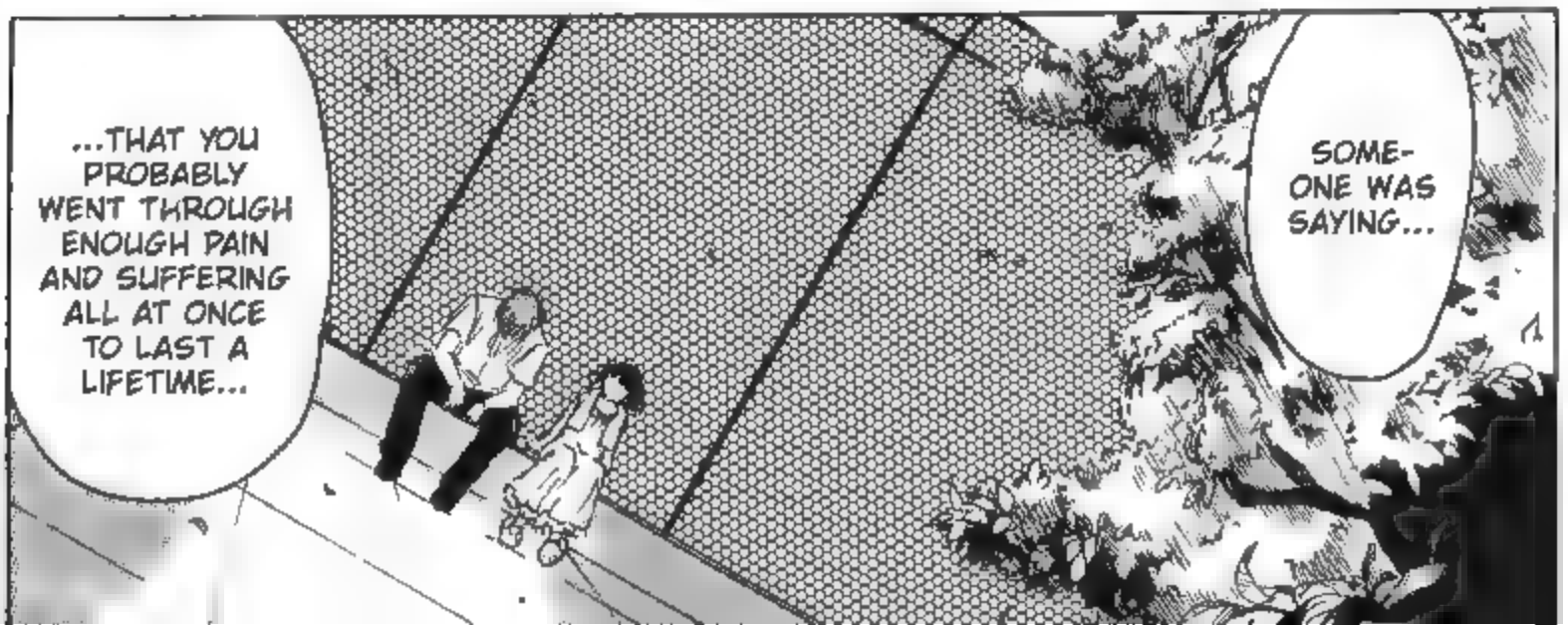
I WONDER IF IT REALLY WAS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

GU (CLENCH)

BECAUSE I DIDN'T PRAY LIKE I SHOULD HAVE.

BECAUSE I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN OYASHIRO-SAMA.

THERE IS NO CURSE.



...AND THAT YOU'RE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

SO THE TIME YOU'RE SPENDING RESTING... RIGHT NOW...

...IS PROBABLY NECESSARY... AND IMPORTANT TO HELP YOUR MIND AND HEART RECOVER THEIR ENERGY.

BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.

I WANT TO KNOW THE SAME THINGS AND THINK ABOUT THE SAME THINGS.

THIS IS SELFISH OF ME.

BUT EVEN SO, I WANT TO SEE THE SAME THINGS AS YOU.

I'M GOING TO HURT YOU OUT OF MY SELFISH-NESS.

I WANT YOU TO BE IN THE SAME WORLD AS ME.

I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WHAT'S WRONG, TOUDOU-KUN...?

DOES IT STILL HURT SOME-WHERE ...?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT.. ?

WHEN YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS KILLED, NATSUMI...

TOU-DOU-KUN?

THAT'S YOUR TESTIMONY, NATSUMI. THAT'S WHAT YOU SAW.

...YOUR MOTHER STABBED HER REPEATEDLY.

NOT A STAB WOUND!!

BUT THERE WEREN'T ANY STAB WOUNDS ON YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S BODY WHEN THEY FOUND IT.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS BLUNT TRAUMA TO THE HEAD.

I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER IT...

DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT...

SO WHAT IS IT YOU SAW, NATSUMI !?

TOU-DOU-KUN...

THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF REPEATED STABBING.

THE INJURIES ON HER BODY WERE FROM HER BEING CUT INTO PIECES AFTER SHE DIED.

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS.

I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER IT.

I WANT TO FORGET ABOUT IT!!

WHY ARE YOU ASKING THAT...?

WHEN HER FATHER WAS KILLED ...

NEXT, YOUR FATHER ...

THIS IS WHAT SHE TOLD US ABOUT IT.

"WHEN I WAS TALKING TO MY DAD ABOUT TURNING OURSELVES IN...

"...MOM CAME UP FROM BEHIND AND STABBED HIM IN THE NECK."

SHE SAID SHE AND HER FATHER WERE FACING EACH OTHER, SO SHE DIDN'T NOTICE HOW CLOSE HER MOTHER WAS.

BUT THE WOUNDS ON HER FATHER'S BODY WERE MADE FROM THE FRONT.

IT'S A CLEAR CONTRADICTION WITH NATSUMI-CHAN'S TESTIMONY.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TOUDOU-SAN, HAVE YOU EVER STABBED A PERSON?

OOISHI-SAN!

NO? THEN HAVE YOU EVER BEEN STABBED?

THE NECK, YOU SEE, IS EXTREEEMELY VULNERABLE TO BLADES.

AN INJURY TO THE NECK IS MORE LETHAL THAN ONE TO THE HEART OR BRAIN.

IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT A LOT OF BLOOD FLOWS THROUGH IT...

...IT'S CLOSE TO THE HEART, SO IF IT STARTS BLEEDING, IT'S OVER. THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD THAT GUSHES FROM THE WOUND IS TREMENDOUS.

SO WHOEVER STABBED HER FATHER WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOWERED IN QUITE A BIT OF BLOOD, YOU SEE.

LET'S SAY THAT YOU STABBED ME IN THE NECK RIGHT NOW.

IT'S A DEEP ENOUGH WOUND TO GO ALL THE WAY THROUGH.

NOW HERE'S A QUES-TION.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF BLOOD THAT SPEWED OUT?

IT WOULD ...

...HIT ME...

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?

WHEN THE POLICE BROKE INTO HER HOME...

...THE GIRL'S ENTIRE BODY WAS COVERED IN HER FATHER'S BLOOD.

IT WAS ALL OVER HER WHITE SKIN AND CLOTHES.

IT WAS ON HER FACE, HER HAIR ...

...HER HANDS!

...
MAYBE
...
...HER MEMORIES ARE JUST MIXED UP.
.....
WHAT
...
...DO YOU THINK IT ALL MEANS?
BESIDES, NATSUMI IS TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY...
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR HER TO BE CONFUSED.
YOU SAW HOW HER FAMILY DIED.
AND ***HARUKO KIMIYOSHI*** HIT YOU WITH A VASE. ...WAS THAT IT?
YOU WENT INSIDE THE HOUSE ALONE.
THAT'S WHY I WAS AT HER HOUSE!
BESIDES, SHE ASKED ME FOR HELP OVER THE PHONE!

WAS IT REALLY NATSUMI-SAN WHO TALKED TO YOU ON THE PHONE?

EH...?

WE ALREADY WENT OVER THIS...

...BUT NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI-SAN WAS COMPLETELY COVERED IN BLOOD.

IT WAS ESPECIALLY THICK ON HER HANDS ...

THERE WERE BLOODSTAINS EVERY-WHERE SHE WALKED-AND ON EVERY-THING SHE TOUCHED.

IT WAS ON THE WALLS AND IN THE HALL TOO.

BUT AS FOR THE PHONE RECEIVER THAT SHE WOULD HAVE USED TO TALK TO YOU...

ON ALL KINDS OF THINGS ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

...THERE WERE NO BLOOD-STAINS ON IT.

THERE IS ONE PHONE IN THE KIMIYOSHI HOME...

.. AND AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE ONLY TWO PEOPLE ALIVE IN THE HOUSE.

ONE OF THEM WAS A MURDERER, COVERED IN BLOOD...

...AND THE OTHER WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU FOR HELP... THE VICTIM.

OH.

INCIDENTALLY, THE VASE THAT KNOCKED YOU OUT?

THEY WERE ON THAT.

NATSUMI-SAN'S BLOODY HANDPRINTS.

ZAZA (RUSTLE)

ZA

ZA

ZA

ZA

THEY SAID THERE'S STILL TIME.

THEY KILL THE ONES CLOSE TO THEM, THEN COMMIT SUICIDE...

EVERYONE FROM HINAMIZAWA IS GOING DOWN THE SAME PATH.

Hotel

PAN CHIACKO

YOU CAN STILL BE SAVED...

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOTALLY SWALLOWED UP IN THE MADNESS!

BUT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, NATSUMI!

WHAT ...

...IS THIS ...?

NATSU ...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING...

THAT'S CRAZY!

...IT WAS THAT DAY.

THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY LEARNED THE PRECISE DAY OF YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S DEATH FROM THE STATE OF THE BODY AND BY ASKING NEIGHBORS...

...AND DAD... WAS KILLED BY MOM TOO...

I SAW IT!

MOM KILLED GRAND-MA...

NATSU-MI!

THE DAY I FIRST WENT TO YOUR HOUSE.

POKUN POKUN

RUN!

SHEET NATSUMI

They've gone crazy!

All of our older relatives ...!

It's not just us!

I ONLY PUSHED HER A LITTLE ROUGHLY, THAT'S ALL.

BUT SHE...

WHY?

BUT

...I JUST PUSHED HER HAND AWAY A LITTLE.

MOM...

HOW DID THIS HAP-PEN...?

...
GRANDMA'S NOT WITH US ANYMORE.

NA-TSU—

THERE'S NO ONE TO TALK ABOUT OYASHIRO-SAMA ANYMORE.

AND NO ONE TO PUT UP WEIRD CHARMS ON THE HOUSE.

...SEE?

NOW IT WILL BE JUST LIKE BEFORE.

IT'S OKAY...

...MOM...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, NATSU-MI!?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?

NATSUMI...!

OH.

RIGHT.

I HAVE TO HIDE HER...

BLEEHH!

ERK... BLEGH !!

BLEERGH!

...SO THAT NO ONE WILL FIND HER.

CUT HER UP...

...INTO LITTLE PIECES ...

HIDE HER NEATLY AWAY...

IT'S OKAY.

I KNOW WE CAN MAKE IT WORK.

WE'RE FAMILY.

I MEAN, WE'RE FAMILY.

MOM.

DAD.

HERE!

YOU'LL HELP ME, RIGHT?

I'M A MURDER-ER.

...AND KILLED PEOPLE ...

I PUT UP WEIRD CHARMS ON MY HOUSE ...

I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER! I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE NEAR SOMEONE LIKE THAT!

KIMI-YOSHI.

...KIMI-YOSHI ...

I DISGUST YOU, DON'T I...!?

THE CURSE! OYA-SHIRO-SAMA!

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD KNOW.

I KNOW.

HOW?

I CAN'T LET TOUDOU-KUN FIND OUT!

BUT HE KNOWS WHAT I DID. HE KNOWS EVERY-THING ABOUT MY CRIMES.

I HAVE TO HIDE IT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I DIDN'T KILL HER...

NATSU-MI...?

IT WASN'T ME...

I HAVE TO MAKE IT SO THAT I WASN'T THE ONE WHO KILLED GRANDMA

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?

WHAT IS THIS MEMORY?

...WAS THERE TOO.

I...

I WAS THERE TO SEE WHAT MADE YOU KILL YOUR GRAND-MOTHER...

WHAT REALLY STARTED EVERY-THING.

I SAW WHAT MADE EVERY-THING START TO GO CRAZY.

...I HAD BEEN MORE...

...IF ONLY...

EVERY-
THING
WAS
GOING
SO
WELL.

EVERY-
THING WAS
GOING
WELL!!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
I DID THAT
FOR!?

BUT
YOU...

I WAS
ALMOST
THERE.

HOW...

...DID
THINGS
END UP
LIKE THIS
...?

NA-
TSUMI.

LET'S GO
TO THE
POLICE.

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

I JUST WANT-ED TO BE HAPPY.

I THOUGHT WE WERE FAMILY!

I THOUGHT WE ALL FELT THE SAME...

I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE THE PLACE WHERE I BELONGED...

HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT "BELONGING" AFTER KILLING SOMEONE?

...TOUDOU-KUN...

AND?

WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO AFTER YOU TRICKED US?

TO THINK, THERE WAS A HOMICIDAL MANIAC SO CLOSE BY.

IT GIVES ME CHILLS.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ...

I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE...

LIKE YOU DID YOUR OWN FAMILY?

I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!

WERE YOU GOING TO KILL US?

NO...

NO...

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME...!!

DID YOU THINK I WOULD LIKE YOU AFTER WHAT YOU DID!?

NA-TSUMI, LOOK AT ME!!

THERE'S NO ONE THERE! I CAN'T HEAR ANY-THING!!

NATSUMI !!

...NATSUMI...

...TOUDOU-KUN...

...DO YOU...

...HATE ME...?

YOU HATE ME...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

I WANT TO PROTECT YOU!!

YOU DO HATE ME.

I DON'T!

GUI (HUG)

I...

BUT I...

I WAS ALWAYS CLOSE TO YOU.

I...

I COULD HAVE STOPPED YOU...

I COULD HAVE SAVED YOU...!

...LOVE YOU, TOUDOU-KUN.

N...

NATSU ...

JIWA (SEEP)

THE DAY...

...I FIRST CAME TO THIS TOWN...

...I SAW A PICTURE YOU DREW.

IT WAS SO PRETTY ...

IT WAS SCENERY THAT YOU COULD SEE FROM THE SCHOOL WINDOW...

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU...

AND I HAD A FEELING!

I JUST KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE A WONDERFUL TOWN!

MOM AND DAD SAID SO TOO!

I MEAN, THAT'S HOW YOU ...

...SAW THIS TOWN, TOUDOU-KUN.

GH!

YOU NEED TO CALM-

AH...!

THE NUMBER OF CAMGIRLS WHERE PEOPLE CLOSE TO THE RANKING HAVE GOTTEN WRAPPED UP IN THE CLIMAX...

...I WORKED REALLY HARD...

...IS FAR FROM SMALL

...TO GET THAT COLOR ...

...I'LL TEACH YOU, NATSUMI. JUST YOU ...

NEXT TIME...

I PROMISE.

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU TOO, NATSUMI.

I'LL ALWAYS STAY BY YOUR SIDE. ALWAYS.

TOMOU-KUN...?

...

HOW COULD YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF OF HER!?

TH-THE HIGHER-UPS SAID ...

...IT WAS FINE AS LONG AS SHE STAYED IN THE HOSPITAL ...

OOISHI-SAN, PLEASE HURRY!

...AKA-SAKA-SAN.

DO YOU THINK IT'S THAT BOY?

...MOST LIKELY ...

ONLY TWO ROADS REMAIN THAT LEAD TO HER.

TO BE ENVELOPED IN HER GENTLE MADNESS AND DIE A HAPPY DEATH...

...OR TO BE DRAGGED INTO CRUEL REALITY AND LIVE IN DESPAIR.

SO HE CHOSE DESPAIR?

YES.

HE CHOSE THE PATH TO A LIFE WITH HER...!

AH

!!

THIS IS TER-RIBLE ...

NATSUMI-CHAN!!

... HELP ...

... TOUDOU-KUN IS...

IT'S MY FAULT...!

YOU LITTLE!

ARREST HER!

SHE'S ALREADY ...!

HEY...

WAIT, PLEASE!

STOP STRUG-GLING, BRAT!!

TOU-DOU-KUN!!

TOUDOU-KUN! TOUDOU-KUN! TOUDOU-KUN!!

HE'S STILL BREATH-ING!

CALL A DOCTOR! HURRY!

EH?

PLEASE, LET HER GO.

NOW!

.....

YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

...NA-TSUMI-CHAN...

BIKU (JUMP)

AKA-SAKA-SAN!

KOKUN (NOD)

KUI (BECKON)

I'VE MADE A LOT OF MISTAKES.

I'VE LOST A LOT.

EVEN MY ONE AND ONLY PRECIOUS WORLD.

MY WORLD
HAS CHANGED
IT'S A VERY
CRUEL WORLD
NOW BUT

AFTERWORD MANGA: AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
THE ROAD TO AVOIDING TRAGEDY

I THOUGHT OF A WAY THAT NATSUMI COULD AVOID TRAGEDY

WELL?

STANDING IN FOR CREATOR, RYUKISHI 07
MAMORU AKASAKA-SAN

STUMP: HAPPY TREE

THE REAL EN KITO
BEAR CICADA

STANDING IN FOR EDITOR H-SAN
KURAUDO ODISHI-SAN

SHEET: ANOYOROSHI

I THINK AKIRA IS THE KEY

OH, THE THING THAT HAPPENED IN CHAPTER TWO

I THINK IF HE HAD CONDUCTED HIMSELF BETTER AT THAT POINT, THEN THE TRAGEDY WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED..

SHE... CAN AVOID IT?

YOU WENT THAT FAR?

WOULDN'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR HER IF SHE COULDN'T !?

SUCH A NICE PERSON !!

きっぱり。

KIPPARI (FRANK)

WHAT IF...

..HE ACTUALLY JOINED IN?

SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN EXACTLY?

ACT LIKE HE DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL OR SOMETHING

BUT THAT'S WHAT HE DID, AND IT FAILED BECAUSE HE'S SO AWKWARD

JOINED IN?

BASA (FLUTTER)

BASA

BASASA

TOUDOU-KUUUUN!

NATSUMI!

HISO

HISO (WHISPER)

SORRY!

I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO YOUR HOUSE TO GET YOU.

YOU'RE LATE!

TOUDOU-KUN

I HAD TROUBLE FINDING FRESH ONES.

I DO THIS FOR YOU, NATSUMI.

MEOOOOW!

ARF! ARF! ARF!

GATA (RATTLE)

GATA

PON (PAT)

ぽん

I'LL HELP!

I CAN SEE YOUR HARD WORK

OOHH!!

A NEW PATH HAS OPENED UP!

BEAUTI-FULLY AVOID THE TRAGEDY!!

YOU SEE?

IT WOULD BE LIKE THAT!

OH TOUDOU-KUN

SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE.

GATA

GATA GATA

HELLO!

KIMI-YOSHI-SAN

IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT AT HOME?

KARAN (CLINK)

IT'S FINE.

SO THEN, WHEN THE PAIR FROM OKINOMIYA BOOKS COMES TO VISIT!

WITH THE POWER OF LOVE!!

NO PROBLEMS AT ALL!

ARF ARF! ARF ARF!

GATA

GATA

GATA (RATTLE)

MEOW!

"I KNOW" ?

GATA

GATA

...THAT KIMIYOSHI'S BATHROOM IS... YOU KNOW

IT'S TRUE...

OR RATHER, WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?

UM...

AND YOU ARE?

BUT!

AND THERE'S A LOT GOING ON THAT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE.

AND THE CHARMS ON HER HOUSE ONLY KEEP MULTIPLYING.

AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH!!!

NATSUMI IS SMILING!!

EEEHHHHH!?

NO, BUT, UM!?

YOU'VE GONE UP IN THE WORLD, YOU LOVEY-DOVEY SPECIALIST!!

SO WHETHER TRAGEDY ENSUES OR IS AVOIDED IS ALL UP TO AKIRA, ISN'T IT!!?

...THE GRANDMA'S REALLY CRAZY, HUH...?

BUT EITHER WAY...

SO IF WE LEAVE THINGS ALONE

THEN SOONER OR LATER, THERE'S DEFINITELY GOING TO BE SOME KIND OF TRAGEDY, DON'T YOU THINK ?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ?

WE COULD NOT CHALLENGE THE TRAGEDY.

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY

DEMON EXPOSING ARC

ABOUT THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC"

ORIGINAL STORY: RYUKISHI07

THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC," WHICH WAS WRITTEN AS A SIDE STORY TO *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY*, HAS REACHED THE END OF THIS VOLUME, AND WE WERE ABLE TO CONCLUDE THE STORY. I FEEL A RENEWED SENSE OF DEEP GRATITUDE TO KITO-SENSEI, WHO TURNED IT INTO A STORY MUCH, MUCH MORE WONDERFUL THAN THE OUTLINE I PITCHED!

THE WORLD SURROUNDING NATSUMI IN THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC" REACHED A CONCLUSION AFTER OVERCOMING A GREAT TRIAL, BUT NOW THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF ATONEMENT THAT WON'T END FOR A LONG TIME. WITH NO FAMILY TO TELL HER WHEN THOSE DAYS ARE OVER, NATSUMI MAY HAVE TO CARRY THAT CROSS HER ENTIRE LIFE. WHEN YOU IMAGINE THAT, MAYBE THE WEIGHT OF THIS STORY WILL MAKE YOU FEEL SOMETHING MORE.

THE IMPETUS FOR TRAGEDY IS SOMETIMES APPALLINGLY TINY. AND ALSO APPALLINGLY, IT HAPPENS IN AN INSTANT, IS OVER IN AN INSTANT, AND CAN NEVER BE WIPED AWAY. HOW MUCH REGRET WILL ASSAULT US WHEN WE REALIZE THAT? IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT, THEN MAYBE YOU CAN ALSO IMAGINE THAT THE TRAGEDY OF THE GIRL NATSUMI KIMIYOSHI MIGHT ALSO BEFALL YOU.

LATELY, I'VE THOUGHT THAT WE'VE REACHED AN ERA WHEN LIVES ARE LOST ALL TOO EASILY. IT'S PROBABLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL A TRAGEDY CLOSELY RESEMBLING THE "DEMON EXPOSING ARC," OR ONE THAT FAR SURPASSES IT, HAPPENS IN REAL LIFE. ...AT THE VERY LEAST, I PRAY THAT THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE KIND ENOUGH TO READ THIS STORY WILL LEARN SOMETHING OF WHAT NATSUMI AND HER COMPANIONS LEARNED.

NATSUMI AND AKIRA PROBABLY HAVE LONG DAYS OF HARDSHIP AHEAD OF THEM. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE TOTAL OF THEIR SUFFERING WILL SURPASS THE TRAGEDY THAT BEGAN IT.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN OVERCOME IT AND FIND HAPPINESS.

I MEAN, IF NATSUMI AND AKIRA CAN'T FIND HAPPINESS, THEN THE TRAGEDY WILL NEVER END. AND THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN UNENDING TRAGEDY.

Common Honorifics

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Pg. 15

Setsubun is a Japanese festival celebrated at the beginning of spring. A common tradition involves throwing beans to purify the home and drive out demons. A family descended from demons would certainly not want to perform such a ritual.

Onigashima is a legendary island of demons featured in the Japanese folk tale *Momotaro*. The legendary hero goes to the island to slay all the demons infesting it.

Pg. 42

Bowing twice, clapping twice, and bowing once is the proper way to worship a Shinto deity. The bowing shows respect, the clapping invites the deity to you, and the last bow is to respectfully send off the deity after offering your prayer.

Pg. 63

Some schools in Japan have **classes on Saturday**. Some schools have class every other Saturday, and some have half days on Saturday. Natsumi's school, at least today, has a half day.

Pg. 98

Manju are steamed yeast buns with filling, usually meat or bean jam.

Pg. 126

Tamagoyaki, literally "cooked egg," is something like an omelet and is a staple of homemade Japanese lunches.

Pg. 171

The ***"security treaty"*** here refers to the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan that was signed during the Cold War to strengthen relations between the two countries. Haruko would appear to have been a radical activist against the treaty.

Pg.172

The "*tama*" in **Tamako** means "ball" or "round object." That's why Kito-*sensei* suspects that H-san named her Tamako based on her roly-poly shape.

Pg. 172
"Idol collage" is a euphemism for doctored photos of idols. The creators of these collages often put the idols in situations their publicists would not want them to be seen in.

Pg. 206
Tiramisu is in fact an Italian cake made of ladyfingers (small, narrow sponge cakes) that are dipped in coffee and then layered in a mix of egg yolk and a kind of Italian cream cheese. So while it's not like the cheesecake you normally think of, it is a cake flavored with cheese. It may also be flavored with cocoa and rum or wine.

Pg. 263
Anko is red bean jam, a common ingredient in Japanese-style desserts. Ooishi finds it unusual (and probably ingenious) that they would include it in a Western-style dessert as well. ***Anmitsu*** is a Japanese-style dessert consisting of fruit, gelatin, and anko. So when Ooishi asks for a parfait with anmitsu on top, he's getting the parfait with anko he was talking about.

Pg. 268
Like Nessie of Loch Ness fame, ***Ossie*** is a mysterious prehistoric creature living in the depths of Onigafuchi Swamp.

Pg. 314
1-1-0 is is one of the Japanese equivalents of 9-1-1. This particular emergency number is for calling the police. To call for medical and fire emergencies, the number is 1-1-9.

Pg. 330
A ***noshi*** is a special piece of origami that is attached to gifts.

Pg. 389
A **happy tree** is a species of tree from China (*camptotheca*). Extracts from this tree are used as an anti-cancer treatment.

"Anoyoroshi" is a term that appears on certain cards in a deck of *hanafuda*, a Japanese card game. The card features a banner with the word on it, looking much like the one seen in this panel (but on the card, it's not shaped like a person).

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
DEMON EXPOSING ARC

RYUKISHI07
EN KITO

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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